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Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

1 July 1991–30 June 1992

General Assembly
Official Records • Forty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 13 (A/47/13)

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

10 September 1992

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to the General Assembly my annual report on the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, in compliance with the request in paragraph 21 of resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and with paragraph 8 of resolution 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958.

In the introduction (chapter I), I have focused on the main events and activities affecting and involving Agency operations, and the related situation of the Palestinians living in the occupied territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Of particular concern to me were the deteriorating social and economic conditions in the occupied territory and the problems faced by the Palestinians, in particular the refugees, in their daily life. In Lebanon, where reconstruction efforts were under way, the problem of displaced and unemployed Palestinians engaged the Agency's attention. In Jordan, the Agency felt the impact of the demand for services from returnees from the Persian Gulf. All in all, the Agency continued to function under difficult circumstances, with emergency programmes for the fifth successive year in three of its five fields of operation.

Chapter II provides information on general developments in the Agency's three main programmes dealing with education, health, and relief and social services, while summaries of activities in each of the five fields are contained in chapters III to VI. The sections on Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip contain information on the Agency's emergency activities, that is, the programme of extraordinary measures in Lebanon and the occupied territory. The expanded programme of assistance in the occupied territory, under which the Agency carries out infrastructure improvements, is dealt with in chapter VI. Legal issues are contained in chapter VII.

Financial matters are outlined in chapter VIII. As the Agency has moved to a biennial budget cycle as from 1 January 1992, detailed information on finances and the budget was presented in the last annual report and will again be included in the next one. This report therefore includes a brief chapter on financial matters, outlining the present financial status of the Agency, in place of the customary addendum. On the question of funding, I remain concerned about the shortfall in the cash component of the Agency's programmes, in particular the emergency programme and urgently-needed housing and sanitation needs, in spite of successive appeals for contributions.

President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

Annexes containing statistical and financial information are included, as well as references to documents of the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies related to the work of UNRWA.

This report was examined in draft form by the 10 members of the UNRWA Advisory Commission, which met at Vienna on 10 September, and their comments were considered carefully before the text was finalized. The views of the Advisory Commission are contained in the Chairman's letter of 10 September addressed to me, a copy of which appears below.

I have once again deemed it appropriate to maintain the practice of showing my report in draft form to representatives of the Government of Israel and to give consideration to their comments in view of the fact that a major part of the Agency's operations takes place in the territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

I should like to emphasize that the annual report covers a specific period, and developments which took place after 30 June, in particular in the occupied territory, are not included.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ilter TURKMEN
Commissioner-General

LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1992 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL

Dear Commissioner-General,

At its regular meeting on 10 September 1992, the Advisory Commission of UNRWA considered the draft annual report of the Commissioner-General on the Agency's activities and operations during the period from 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992; it also examined the Agency's financial situation within the framework of the biennial budget for 1992-1993.

The Advisory Commission stressed on that occasion the essential role played by the Agency in the provision of health, education, food aid and welfare services to over 2.6 million registered Palestine refugees, as well as emergency assistance under its extraordinary measures programme to needy Palestinians in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

The Advisory Commission commended UNRWA for its general assistance programme through which some measure of protection is provided to Palestine refugees in the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and requested the Agency to continue on a flexible and emergency basis general assistance to the population in need.

Taking note of the serious socio-economic deterioration in refugee camps, particularly those in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza, as a result of the factors reflected in your report which were intensified by the consequences of the Gulf war, the Advisory Commission commended the achievements of the Agency in the discharge of the mandate and the tasks entrusted to it by the international community, and which are recalled by various relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

The Advisory Commission stressed the importance of giving the Agency the financial means necessary for its operations. It called upon all member States and donor countries, present and potential, to increase their contributions or start contributing to the Agency. The Commission commended the hospitality and assistance given by the host States in the region. It took note of the serious problems arising for the Governments concerned, especially the Governments of Jordan and Lebanon, from the influx of refugees and the increasing economic difficulties in the camps. The Commission therefore called on the member States and donor countries to alleviate the task of those countries and help them in their work.

Mr. Ilter Türkmen
Commissioner-General
United Nations Relief and Works
Agency for Palestine Refugees
in the Near East

The Advisory Commission believed that, in order to contribute to the success of the ongoing peace negotiations, it was imperative that the Agency's projects and programmes aimed at improving the daily life of the refugees be given the means necessary for their effective implementation.

The Advisory Commission noted with concern that the cash component for the extraordinary measures in Lebanon and the occupied territories showed a deficit of $4 million to $5 million and that, if this continued, a vital part of UNRWA activities would be disrupted, causing serious repercussions for the refugees.

The Advisory Commission noted with appreciation that the income generation programme and the related poverty alleviation programme were now operational, and requested that additional financing be made available to the Agency for continuing and expanding these activities.

The Advisory Commission discussed paragraph 22 of your report concerning future possible tasks of the Agency.

The Advisory Commission commended the host Governments for the cooperation extended to UNRWA in the discharge of its duties, as well as for their activities, contributions and assistance in favour of the Palestine refugees.

The members of the Advisory Commission strongly regretted the persistence of obstacles, administrative or other, by the authorities mentioned in your report, which disrupt the activity of the Agency and of its staff in the occupied territories. They renewed therefore their appeal for an end to these obstacles. The Commission was of the opinion that such a development could also contribute positively to a climate which would enhance the prospects for success in the peace negotiations.

The Commission commended the Agency for the report it had submitted and recommended its approval by the General Assembly.

The members of the Advisory Commission wished to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his continued support of UNRWA. They also wished to express their appreciation, Mr. Commissioner-General, for your work and commitment at the head of the Agency. They also wished to express - through you - their gratitude to all the Agency staff who, in difficult circumstances, fulfil their duties with devotion and efficiency. Finally, the Advisory Commission expressed the hope that the developments taking place in the region and the current peace negotiations would lead to the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Marcel TREMEAU
Chairman of the Advisory Commission

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It is to be hoped that the year under review will be remembered as the one in which moves began towards a settlement of the Palestine question, and indeed the broader Middle East conflict. The historic meeting at Madrid in October 1991, attended by Israel, the Arab States and a Palestinian delegation, was followed by further meetings in Washington and by multilateral discussions on a number of issues, including the refugee question, held at Ottawa in May 1992. At the time of writing, it was anticipated that the bilateral discussions would shortly resume in Washington. While the talks had yet to yield concrete results, their very continuation gave cause for optimism, a feeling which was bolstered by the election in June of a new Israeli Government which declared itself committed to advancing the peace process at an accelerated pace.

2. In sharp contrast to the optimism created by the opening of the peace talks, the situation in the occupied territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remained critical, since no significant relaxation in the traditional pattern of Israeli occupation policies occurred. In general, tension remained high for several reasons. The lack of correlation between positive developments at the political and diplomatic levels, and events affecting the daily life of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, were a cause for concern. Conditions in the refugee camps, especially in Gaza, were appalling for many of the inhabitants. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) repeatedly emphasized the need for peace negotiations at the international level to be accompanied by confidence-building measures affecting the daily life of the Palestinians in the occupied territory. Regrettably, there was little indication of any such measures by the end of the reporting period, although positive developments included the re-opening of Al-Najah and Bir Zeit universities, which meant that all universities in the occupied territory were once again functioning, and the holding of elections for chambers of commerce and other local bodies.

3. Indeed, the Israeli authorities continued to apply harsh measures against the civilian population, including collective punishment such as curfews, punitive demolition and sealing of houses and shelters, expropriation of land and uprooting of thousands of trees. The night curfew, applied to the entire Gaza Strip almost continuously since the beginning of the intifadah, had long since become a permanent feature. By the end of the reporting period, it was estimated that approximately 12,700 residents of the occupied territory were in detention, with some 5,200 held in prisons and 7,500 in military detention centres. About 8,500 of those detainees were held in Megiddo prison and Ketziot detention centre, both outside the occupied territory, in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949. Also in violation of the Convention was the practice of deportation. Although no deportations were carried out during the year under review, in the period since the beginning of the intifadah the Israeli authorities had deported 66 persons, including four UNRWA staff members. In January 1992, 12 Palestinians, including one UNRWA staff member, were served with deportation orders. A military appeals committee later rescinded the order against one of the 12. As on similar previous occasions, UNRWA protested against the proposed deportations.

4. When faced with disturbances, the security forces frequently resorted to use of lethal force. Between 1 July 1991 and 30 June 1992, 121 Palestinians were killed in clashes with the Israeli security forces in the occupied territory. An additional 5,500 sought emergency medical attention in local hospitals and UNRWA health centres, suffering from beatings, tear gas inhalation and rubber bullet or live ammunition wounds (see table 12). Those figures, while disturbing, were the lowest since the outbreak of the intifadah in December 1987. Nevertheless, while the day-to-day level of confrontations was noticeably lower, the fear remained that socio-economic deterioration could combine with frustration at the lack of concrete progress in the peace process to cause the situation to explode into violence. That was particularly so in the Gaza Strip, where the potential for serious large-scale unrest became increasingly evident towards the end of the reporting period. On 1 April, Israeli soldiers in two jeeps sped into the market area of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip following the throwing of a hand grenade at a border police post. A petrol bomb and stones were thrown at the vehicles, whereupon the soldiers fired into the crowd, killing four Palestinians and wounding 70 others.

5. During the reporting period, the Israeli security forces made increasing use of undercover units. Those units, which had existed since the early months of the intifadah, but were publicly acknowledged only in June 1991, entered towns, villages and refugee camps, usually in confiscated cars with local licence plates and in civilian, often Arab, dress, seeking to apprehend wanted persons. Many times, the activities of undercover units ended in the death by shooting of Palestinians. Between February and May 1992 alone, out of a total of 54 Palestinians killed in the occupied territory, 21 were killed by Israeli military personnel operating under cover. On a number of occasions, it was reported that Palestinians had been shot fleeing, or posing no threat to the safety of the security forces, or had been gunned down without warning. This led to assertions from Palestinian and international human rights groups that the undercover units were engaging in summary executions, a charge which was strenuously denied by the Israeli authorities.

6. Within the Palestinian community, the killing of alleged collaborators continued during the period under review in spite of calls by many in the Palestinian leadership for such activity to be curtailed. A total of 64 were killed in Gaza and 63 in the West Bank. Among this number were two UNRWA staff members. On 11 May 1992, four masked men entered the boys' preparatory school at Deir el-Balah in the Gaza Strip and shot a teacher in full view of a class of 43 pupils. The teacher was transferred to a local hospital where he died. UNRWA strongly condemned this action and the following day closed all of its schools in the Deir el-Balah area.

7. During the reporting period, loss of earnings and remittances from the Persian Gulf, reduction of domestic and export revenue and increased security measures combined to weaken further the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza. The number of Palestinians crossing each day to work in Israel fluctuated throughout the year. On occasion, all Palestinians were excluded from Israel by the authorities, who invoked security considerations. Inhabitants of the Gaza Strip tended to be the worst affected. The complete closure of the Strip from 24 May to 9 June 1992 was the longest since the end of the Gulf war. By the end of the reporting period, an estimated 25,000-27,000 workers from Gaza were crossing into Israel on a daily basis.

Those numbers fell far below pre-Gulf war, let alone pre-intifadah levels. Further, an estimated 10,000 persons in the West Bank alone, generally Palestinians who had spent some time in detention, were issued with special green identity cards, which effectively banned their entry to East Jerusalem and restricted their movement in the occupied territory itself. Moreover, in view of the large number of recent immigrants to Israel and the high level of unemployment in the country, it seemed unlikely that levels of Palestinian employment in Israel would rise significantly in the foreseeable future. The consequences of the situation for Palestinian employment and levels of income were serious. The ailing local economies of the West Bank and Gaza were unable to absorb even a fraction of the workers who lost jobs in Israel. In addition to providing material assistance to the most needy, UNRWA attempted to address some of the resulting problems through its income-generating and job-creation programme.

8. The Agency proceeded with plans to build a 232-bed general hospital in the Gaza Strip, the construction costs of which were pledged by the European Community. It was hoped that the foundation stone would be laid towards the end of 1992. In addition to addressing urgent medical needs, the hospital project would provide more than 400 jobs in the construction phase, additional jobs during the installation and finishing phase, and more than 500 once in operation.

9. It should be emphasized that under the prevailing circumstances it was extremely difficult to take effective remedial measures to address the socio-economic problems of the occupied territory. The stringent controls and restrictions applied by the occupation authorities over economic activities rendered almost any development initiatives, investment or trade highly problematic. More than 50 per cent of the land in the West Bank and 40 per cent in Gaza was reserved for Israeli military or civilian use and a series of military orders and planning regulations restricted Palestinian use of the remaining area. Severe limitations on water resources affected Palestinian agriculture, which had a total fixed quota of 90-100 million cubic metres per year in the West Bank while Israeli settlers received, per capita, at least twice the amount consumed by the Palestinians. Israel's announced measures to help the economy were not seen as producing concrete results.

10. High rates of taxation also hampered economic initiatives. In the period since 1967, taxation had increased ahead of the ability of most Palestinians to pay. Israeli settlers living in the occupied territory paid lower taxes than Palestinians, and received other generous subsidies. On the basis of a case brought by a group of Palestinian merchants in the West Bank, the Israeli Supreme Court ordered the Government to explain why it charged Palestinians twice as much tax as it charged Israelis and why there was no explanation as to how the revenue was disposed of. Taxation or high fees also acted as a disincentive to the export of produce, particularly fruit, to Europe. Other obstacles to economic development in the occupied territory included the absence of a functioning credit system, stringent security checks and restrictions on movement. The pass system described in the previous report remained in force, with male Palestinians between the ages of 16 and 60 from the West Bank and Gaza requiring a travel pass to enter Israel or East Jerusalem. Given the size of greater Jerusalem, which had been expanded threefold since the beginning of the occupation, the effect of the pass system was to isolate East Jerusalem and divide the occupied territory into four

areas: northern West Bank, East Jerusalem, southern West Bank and Gaza. Towards the end of the reporting period, travel between the occupied territory and Jordan became increasingly difficult, with a larger number of Palestinians than usual, many of them Gulf returnees, wishing to visit relatives in the occupied territory or to renew their residence permits before expiry. The problem was compounded by the temporary closure for repairs of the Damiya bridge and the reduction by the Israeli authorities of the number of Palestinians per day permitted to cross the Allenby bridge.

11. An issue related to bridge crossings was that of family reunification. A census carried out by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the immediate aftermath of the 1967 war became the basis for the designation of the right of residence in the occupied territory. The substantial numbers of persons who had fled the occupied territory in the course of the 1967 war (including approximately 200,000 persons from the West Bank alone, of whom some 150,000 were refugees registered with UNRWA), and others who later wished to obtain residence in the occupied territory, could thereafter do so only by applying to the Israeli authorities for family reunification. A total of approximately 120,000 families were affected but only about 13,500 of an estimated 88,000 applicants between 1967 and 1989 had been successful in this regard. Approximately 12,000 displaced registered refugees were known by UNRWA to have returned to the occupied territory since June 1967. A particularly acute problem had in recent years arisen in the case of marriages entered into by West Bank residents with women, mainly from Jordan, who had applied for West Bank residence and were permitted to live there only on short-term renewable visitor permits. Deportations carried out by the Israeli military authorities of those women and their children, who were also not eligible for resident status in the occupied territory, created a climate of considerable uncertainty for newly-wed and prospective couples, who continued to remain subject to military administrative decisions, with little scope for legal recourse.

12. A worrying development in the reporting period was the increasingly aggressive behaviour of Israeli civilian settlers towards the Palestinian population and sometimes also towards UNRWA staff and premises. A particularly serious incident took place on 27 May 1992. Following the killing of an Israeli settler by a Palestinian near Deir el-Balah in the Gaza Strip, a large crowd of settlers stoned a nearby UNRWA elementary school where more than 200 children aged between 7 and 11 years were taking examinations. Some 30 settlers entered the school compound, smashing property and causing considerable alarm among the children trapped inside the school. UNRWA staff present showed great courage in ensuring the safety of the children. Israeli military personnel eventually removed the settlers from the school premises and UNRWA staff were able to evacuate the children and teachers. The settlers destroyed nearby Palestinian property and crops, both during the incident and in the course of the subsequent two-week closure of the Strip. Settlers also ransacked an UNRWA warehouse, causing approximately $37,000 worth of damage.

13. In addition to its regular activities in the occupied territory, UNRWA ran, for the fifth successive year, a programme of extraordinary measures to alleviate the difficulties experienced by the refugee community in the context of the intifadah and Israeli response. Those measures included the refugee affairs officer programme, a legal assistance scheme, emergency food distribution, cash grants to families in distress and a variety of emergency

health services, including increased subsidization of the cost of hospitalization.

14. I cannot leave the subject of the occupied territory without emphasizing once again the difficulties faced by the Agency in operating there. I was concerned in particular about the safety of staff, both area and international, who faced frequent harassment by the Israeli security forces and, from time to time, threats and attacks by some elements in the Palestinian population. Area staff members were frequently arrested and detained, often without charge or trial. The Agency made repeated protests to the Israeli authorities over harassment of staff. Violation of UNRWA premises by the Israeli security forces, and misuse of those premises by certain local elements, also remained serious problems. Those matters are taken up in detail in chapter VII of the present report.

15. The negative effects of the Gulf war of January and February 1991 continued to be felt throughout the region. Socio-economic difficulties were caused by a number of factors, not least of which was the loss of remittances, especially to the occupied territory and Jordan, which had previously been sent by the large number of Palestinians working in Kuwait and the other Gulf States. At the end of the reporting period, it seemed unlikely that any large number of Palestinians would be able to return to the Gulf in the foreseeable future. The situation of the estimated 25,000-30,000 Palestinians remaining in Kuwait continued to require attention. UNRWA was particularly concerned about those Palestinians from Gaza who had only Egyptian travel documents and might therefore be left with nowhere to go in the event of their having to leave Kuwait because of lack of employment. The Agency was continuing its contacts with the Government of Kuwait and other concerned Governments on this issue.

16. In Lebanon, the year under review witnessed a continuing, if slow, improvement in the security situation. In July 1991, governmental authority was extended beyond the greater Beirut area into the Beqa'a Valley and the north and south of the country, where regular troops replaced United Nations peacekeepers in seven southern villages for the first time since 1978. Between October and December 1991, most of the foreign hostages in Lebanon were released. The last two, both German nationals, were released in June 1992. In the meantime, the south and west Beqa'a was the theatre for frequent confrontations between Israeli and south Lebanon army troops on the one hand, and Islamic resistance guerrillas on the other. In the course of the confrontations, a series of Israeli air raids hit Rashidieh and Ein el-Hilweh refugee camps in October and November 1991 respectively, killing 5 civilians and injuring 15 others, most of them children. While developments on the security front were, on the whole, encouraging, the economy had not shown the level of recovery that had been hoped for. The Lebanese pound fell, and the country received little of the promised foreign aid for its reconstruction and infrastructure restoration. This limited the scope for investment and narrowed further employment opportunities, as a consequence of which individual income dropped and the number of families below the poverty line increased.

17. The impact of those setbacks was extremely severe for Palestinians. The Government was not in a position to offer them much in the way of services. Furthermore, Palestinians in Lebanon faced restrictions in the sectors in

which they could be employed. The Agency continued its efforts to achieve some liberalization in this regard. However, the Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue over Palestinian civil and social rights in Lebanon was suspended by the Government pending the conclusion of the Middle East peace talks. Given those circumstances, UNRWA carried out three emergency food aid distributions to some 220,000 refugees throughout the country and a fourth distribution to some 60,000 refugees in Beqa'a and Tyre. The Agency's other emergency operations in Lebanon were once again directed especially towards alleviating the suffering of the approximately 7,000 Palestinian families which had been displaced in the various rounds of fighting, 4,000 of whom remained in unsatisfactory, makeshift accommodation, and who would require assistance to obtain adequate housing.

18. Unemployment continued to rise also in Jordan where existing socio-economic difficulties were exacerbated by the return of over 300,000 people from the Gulf. A considerable number of Gulf returnees, in particular in certain professions, and resident unemployed Palestinians pressed and petitioned UNRWA for employment. Some idea of the magnitude of the problem can be gleaned from the fact that vacancy announcements for Agency teachers for the 1992/93 school year resulted in 9,000 applications being received for 450 posts. The downturn in the economy resulted in an increased demand on Agency services. More than 140,000 pupils were enrolled in UNRWA schools and Agency clinics recorded more than 1 million patient visits during the year.

19. In accordance with changes introduced by the host Government, arrangements were made to extend the basic education cycle of UNRWA schools in Jordan by adding a tenth grade at the commencement of the 1992/93 academic year. Some 42 additional classrooms were constructed and another 24 rented and equipped. The recruitment of an additional 370 teachers to meet the requirements of the extra grade was under way. During the year under review, more than 6,000 children (almost 10,000 Agency-wide) who had returned from Kuwait and other Gulf States were enrolled in Agency schools in Jordan.

20. Once again, Agency operations ran smoothly in the Syrian Arab Republic. There was no change during the year under review concerning Jaramana camp, east of Damascus, which was expected eventually to be affected by the construction of a new airport road and municipal sewage line. Some 338 families would have to move from Jaramana to Huseiniyeh in the suburbs of Damascus where the Government had provided land to UNRWA to construct a school and health centre.

21. As reflected in its accounts for 1991, the financial condition of UNRWA was relatively healthy, within the context of self-imposed restraints on the basis of the anticipated level of contributions. As indicated in last year's report, the Agency moved to a biennial budgetary cycle with effect from 1992-1993. While somewhat restricting the Agency's flexibility in responding to emergency situations, this change did bring UNRWA into line with most of the United Nations system and offered substantial advantages in reducing the workload and facilitating planning and efficient use of resources. The Agency's planning process was strengthened by the introduction of a four-year forward plan, the first of which covered the period 1994-1997. With regard to medium-term and long-term financial prospects, there was no room for complacency since events in Africa, Asia, eastern Europe, the Middle East and

elsewhere in the world and resulting United Nations involvement in costly humanitarian missions seemed likely to generate increasing claims to limited donor funds in 1993 and beyond. Moreover, the UNRWA regular budget was not completely funded for 1992, and the Agency still required substantial amounts of money to fund its programme of extraordinary measures in Lebanon and the occupied territory, its expanded programme of assistance and for the equipment and operating costs of the much-needed general hospital in the Gaza Strip. In my last annual report, I stated that broadening the Agency's donor base was a major priority. Only limited success was achieved in that area, but the support of major donors remained strong. In addition, the continuing contribution of the host Government to the welfare of the Palestine refugees should be underlined. The services of UNRWA alone would not be sufficient to maintain even basic life-sustaining needs were they not complemented by millions of dollars worth of host Government assistance to the refugees in the areas of education, health, and social and other services. The provision of this assistance constituted a heavy burden on the limited financial resources of these countries.

22. In 1991/92, UNRWA provided assistance to 2.6 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Elementary and preparatory education was provided to 374,000 pupils in 636 schools, and health services were delivered through a network of 117 health points. Other Agency installations included 65 women's programme centres and 14 community rehabilitation centres for the disabled. In the event of the peace process leading to an interim period of self-government in the occupied territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA services would continue to be required. Indeed, it appeared that the Palestinian community would wish Agency services to continue and perhaps even expand during an interim period. The Agency would also offer Palestinian administrators cooperation in the planning of programmes in those sectors in which the Agency functioned and consolidate and begin to hand over to the emerging Palestinian institutions the programmes and facilities through which UNRWA had delivered services for more than 40 years. This would include close to 20,000 Palestinian staff and a vast network of health centres, dental clinics, maternal and child health centres, laboratories, elementary and preparatory schools, training centres, women's programme centres and all the related infrastructure. Of course, the scope of the Agency's role would be determined by the wishes of the parties concerned, particularly the Palestinians, since they would have to inform UNRWA how much and what kind of assistance they required. Moreover, any change in the direction of self-government would necessitate a much larger United Nations involvement in social and economic development. Close coordination within the United Nations system would be essential to ensure coherent and efficient assistance.

23. The concluding paragraph of the introduction to the 1989/90 annual report referred to a "time of continuing political stalemate" while the corresponding paragraph last year was somewhat more optimistic in noting that "hopes remained alive that a peace conference would be convened later in the year". That peace conference was indeed convened and, at the end of another reporting period, we all look ahead with hope and optimism to the achievement of positive results. However, until the day arrives when the services of UNRWA are no longer required, I close by appealing once again to the international community to ensure that the Agency is supplied with the resources and moral support it must have if it is to carry out the will of the General Assembly.

II. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AGENCY PROGRAMMES

A. Education

24. The education programme, long the largest activity of UNRWA, grew further during the reporting year. A total of 374,406 elementary and preparatory pupils was served, about 8,800 more than in the previous year. Vocational preparation, encompassing two-year post-preparatory trade courses and post-secondary technical and teacher training courses, increased to 5,202 training places from 5,146. University scholarships increased to 661 from 641. (Details are contained in annex I, tables 5, 6 and 7.) The increases were set in the context of a programme that followed the curricula of the host Governments, and operated with the technical cooperation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which supplied 14 senior staff on secondment to UNRWA.

25. A notable development during the reporting year was the unexpected influx of thousands of pupils into UNRWA schools. In 1991, 9,750 Palestine refugee pupils, who had returned to the Agency's area of operations from Kuwait and other Gulf States as a result of the Gulf crisis, were absorbed into Agency schools, most notably in Jordan (6,200 pupils) and Gaza (1,300). The pupil population in Gaza was further increased by the fact that over 2,000 Palestine refugee pupils who had originally been expected to attend government schools were admitted to Agency schools. In Jordan, overcrowding in one instance reached a level of 65 pupils in a single class. In Gaza, "floating classes" appeared, namely groups of students who could only sit in a classroom when that classroom was vacated by pupils who left for libraries or laboratories. In addition, unusually severe winter storms in the Middle East damaged several schools, including one in Suf camp in Jordan which collapsed under a blizzard, and served as an uncomfortable reminder that most UNRWA schools lacked heating facilities. A lack of adequate classrooms necessitated the scheduling of more than 77 per cent of general education classes in double shifts, which meant that two groups of students used a school on any given day, one group in the morning, one in the afternoon, allowing neither the opportunity for extracurricular activities or for academic preparation time. Budgetary resources for school construction were used in 1991/92 to avoid triple shifting, as well as to prevent overcrowding and to replace inadequate school premises.

26. Academic achievement in Lebanon and the occupied territory remained a matter of concern. In Lebanon in August 1991, students at the end of the preparatory cycle sat for the Brevet, a government examination that had not been given for 15 years. Performance was disturbingly poor. In response, the Agency took remedial measures and lengthened school periods and the school day. In the occupied territory, analysis of UNRWA assessment tests disclosed discouraging results in virtually every basic subject throughout the two fields. Remedial measures were implemented in both fields, and UNRWA staff developed and produced self-learning materials which were distributed to pupils and teachers.

27. In the occupied territory, school closures continued to be a significant problem. UNRWA West Bank schools lost 17 per cent of school days, while Gaza schools lost 12 per cent, owing mainly to curfews, military closures and

general strikes. Those losses, while less severe than the 40 per cent that occurred the previous year, were discouraging. During the reporting period, the four UNRWA training centres in the occupied territory lost 20 per cent of their educational days, owing to curfews and general strikes. In addition, in February and March, 200 students from Gaza enrolled at the West Bank centres could not attend classes, because the occupation authorities revived a long-dormant law requiring Gazan students to possess permits to reside and study in the West Bank. Permits were eventually issued in early April. All of those closures, interruptions and disruptions served to exacerbate the academic losses which began in December 1987 and which were at their most severe during 1988, 1989, early 1990, and in the first quarter of 1991.

28. Significant academic developments during the reporting period included the Agency's participation in standardized, internationally-recognized mathematics and science tests in Jordan and the West Bank in April and May, the findings of which were to be published in September 1992. An external evaluation was conducted of the UNRWA vocational and technical education programme in the occupied territory. Consistent with one of the study's recommendations, and in view of the depressed labour market in the occupied territory and the lack of jobs in the Gulf, the Agency initiated activities to introduce short-term vocational training, scheduled to begin in the summer of 1992. The Agency completed its plans to introduce a number of changes to its general education cycle in Jordan and the West Bank beginning in September 1992. Those changes, necessitated by the comprehensive reforms in the education system of the host Government of Jordan, held considerable financial implications for the Agency and included the addition of a tenth year of general education, the hiring of additional teachers for increased classroom periods, and (by 1997) the upgrading of the qualifications of all teachers to the first university level.

29. In June 1992, UNRWA decided to phase out its two-year pre-service teacher training programme by June 1994. This decision reflected the fact that large numbers of teacher training graduates were unable to find posts in the current labour market, and also the fact that in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza teachers would shortly be required to possess a four-year university degree. The elimination of pre-service teacher training would be offset by additional training places in vocational and technical education, a new series of short-term vocational courses, and strengthening of the existing in-service teacher training programme.

B. Health

30. The Agency's health programme provided primary health care, in the form of medical care and health protection and promotion services, environmental health services in camps and nutrition and supplementary feeding to vulnerable population groups. Its prime objective was to meet humanitarian policies of the United Nations and the basic principles of the World Health Organization (WHO). The demand on UNRWA medical care services, be it general clinic services, hospital services or other support services, continued to increase at a rate greater than the additional resources allotted to the programme owing to the increased cost of medical care, worsening socio-economic conditions and the influx of returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

31. During the period under review, special efforts were exerted to overcome the problem of overcrowding at UNRWA clinics, applying patient-flow analysis and implementing appointment systems, thus improving the quality of care. Those improvements were further reinforced by expanding and upgrading the UNRWA infrastructure of primary health care facilities through constructing additional health centres and maternal and child health centres, renovating deteriorated premises, increasing the number of clinical laboratories, dental clinics and special care clinics for control of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension and providing basic radiographic machines and other capital equipment essential for diagnosis and treatment. Coverage was extended to some localities that did not previously have access to the service, especially in the West Bank and Lebanon fields, and a second afternoon shift providing a full range of preventive and curative services was started in five out of the eight camps in Gaza. Meantime, the emergency medical care programme in the occupied territory continued to provide primary and hospital care to intifadah-related casualties. The joint UNRWA/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) physiotherapy programme continued throughout the year in UNRWA health centres in both the West Bank and Gaza.

32. In order to improve the quality of the UNRWA maternal health and family planning services, approaches for a new strategy were formulated during an inter-field workshop held in November 1991. The strategy aimed at the application of uniform criteria for identification of high-risk pregnancies, management of complications, improvement of post-natal care and provision of family planning services in all fields as an integral part of the Agency's maternal and child health services. Full integration was to be attained through phased implementation at a rate compatible with the level of financial and human resources available to the programme and with progress in staff training. The programme would comprise the offer of contraceptives and counselling services and was to be implemented in close coordination with the family planning associations of the host Governments and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, a system of confidential maternal death inquiries was begun with the aim of detecting and preventing avoidable morbidity factors and ultimately reducing maternal mortality.

33. The mental and psychological problems of the Palestine refugee population, especially children, received greater recognition and planning during the reporting period. A joint UNRWA/WHO mental health programme started in mid-1991 in the West Bank was subsequently taken over by UNRWA. Objectives included reduction of the prevalence of mental health problems among children by dissemination of information and provision of counselling services and treatment. It also included training of UNRWA medical staff, social workers and teachers to improve their knowledge of psychopathology and skill in dealing with associated problems. The agreement between UNRWA and the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme was renewed until the end of December 1992. The agreement covered treatment of cases referred by UNRWA medical staff to the Programme and training of medical staff, teachers and social workers on management of mental health problems, especially post-traumatic stress syndrome among children. An evaluation carried out by WHO and UNRWA reinforced earlier assumptions that mental and psychological disorders represented a serious problem among refugees in Lebanon, especially children, and that a mental health programme was much needed. Arrangements were made with WHO to organize a 12-month training course in community mental health in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for five UNRWA medical officers, starting in October 1992.

C. Relief and social services

34. The objective of the relief and social services programmes was to provide direct relief to those Palestine refugees who were unable to meet their own basic needs for food and shelter, and to promote self-reliance among those and other groups of disadvantaged refugees with special needs through developmental social welfare programmes. During the period under review, the demand for those services increased significantly, partly in response to deteriorating socio-economic conditions in the area of operations and partly as a consequence of the growing awareness among refugees that the services could indeed facilitate improvement in their lives. The number of refugees who qualified and were registered for direct relief ("special hardship" assistance) rose from 162,000 in mid-1991 to more than 178,000 at the end of June 1992, an increase of 10 per cent. In absolute terms, the increase was largest in the Gaza Strip, where economic and social dislocation was especially severe. Agency-wide, loss of remittances from family members in the Gulf and of support from relatives working locally who were now affected by growing unemployment, weakened traditional extended family support systems. Forty-two per cent of the families receiving special hardship assistance were headed by women (compared with 22 per cent of households in the registered refugee population at large); and much of the responsibility for the family's survival fell to women in many other cases.

35. During the year under review, the total number of refugees registered with UNRWA rose from 2.52 million to 2.65 million. This was only partly explained by natural growth in the population. Also significant were decisions by refugees to update their registration status with the Agency, recording family members entitled to registration but not previously declared. Many of those were persons returning from Kuwait and elsewhere in the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Others sought to qualify for the emergency assistance offered in times of crisis in Lebanon and the occupied territory. In recent years, the Agency had divided the registered refugees into two main categories: those eligible for services, and others entitled to registration but not eligible for services. The distinction had become increasingly redundant: primary health care, for instance, could only be effective if offered to communities as a whole; under reciprocal agreements with the host Governments, education in UNRWA schools was available to all children in the catchment area served by the school. On the other hand, maintaining separate records and consequent eligibility checks had become an unnecessary, time-consuming function, with attendant frustrations for the refugees themselves, to no practical benefit. Accordingly, in January 1992, the Agency announced its decision to streamline the records and procedures and amalgamate all registered refugees in a single category.

36. Development programmes for refugees with special needs, in particular women and disabled persons, also expanded during the reporting period. Women's programme centres functioned as multi-purpose focal points in the refugee camps for UNRWA work with women and supported the women's own initiatives. Women and girls from special hardship families were encouraged to participate, and were given priority for informal skill-training classes. Programmes included literacy and numeracy training, health education and child development, household maintenance and safety, technical skills which could help generate or conserve income, basic business skills and, newly introduced

in response to the women's own demand, legal literacy. Most centres opened from early morning until late afternoon. Over the year, another 8 centres were opened, bringing the number to 65 and the women participating from 4,700 to 9,100. While UNRWA staff were attached to each centre to facilitate the programme, committees of women themselves planned and organized activities, raising the funds to supplement the core budget provided by the Agency. A special contribution enabled the Agency to launch a Palestinian Women's Initiative Fund early in 1992, under which technical support, grants and loans were made available to productive enterprises and support services. They included a women's community bank, a pilot business centre for marketing and distribution of production by women, and training on specialized machinery to help women avail themselves of identified employment opportunities.

37. A similar community-based, participatory approach characterized the rehabilitation of disabled refugees and the promotion of their integration into the community. There were 14 community rehabilitation centres in the five fields (compared with 7 in June 1991), offering basic rehabilitation services to an average of 34 children each, supporting their families and involving disabled persons in the life of the community. The centres were run by committees of local refugee volunteers including disabled persons, with technical support from the Agency and non-governmental organizations and financial assistance to augment the funds raised by the communities themselves. Initial steps were taken at four of the centres to establish associated enterprises which would create employment for disabled persons and an income for the centre. In June 1992, UNRWA adopted a declaration of policy and strategy to guide internal decisions in relation to disability, stating, inter alia, that disabled Palestine refugees had the same right to UNRWA services and assistance as other Palestine refugees. In addition, the Agency resolved to attempt to recruit at least 2 per cent of new staff members from the physically disabled.

III. JORDAN

A. Education

38. The 197 UNRWA schools in Jordan, serving 140,000 pupils, were able to operate normally throughout the reporting period, in spite of unusual pressures. The most notable event of 1991 was the influx of nearly 6,200 additional Palestine refugee pupils returning to Jordan in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis. In response to those additional enrolments and to crises in other fields, the Agency mounted emergency appeals in November 1991 and April 1992. Before the end of the reporting year, the appeal had drawn donor pledges which provided funds for the construction of two new schools, as well as six new classrooms and one specialized room. Severe winter weather damaged several schools, most notably at Suf camp. The Agency was able to help repair the damage out of its own resources. The 1991/92 construction programme for Jordan included the completion of two new schools at Baqa'a camp and Wadi Seer village respectively, as well as the completion of 18 new classrooms field-wide, to avoid triple shifting and to accommodate the tenth year scheduled to be introduced in September 1992. Agency schools in Jordan suffered from overcrowding and the use of dilapidated prefabricated school premises, as well as a high percentage of unsuitable rented schools. Over 93 per cent of classes were double-shifted.

39. As reported in chapter II above, plans were developed during the reporting period to deal with forthcoming comprehensive and costly reforms of the Agency's educational programme in Jordan. In addition to the reforms outlined in chapter II, the new study plan also increased the number of weekly periods of certain academic subjects in grades 1 to 10. Scheduled to be introduced in phases over a four-year period, implementation of the plan began in 1991/92 for grades 1, 5 and 9, entailing the hiring of additional teachers to cope with a substantially increased number of weekly periods per grade. New curricula and textbooks were also required.

40. The Amman and Wadi Seer Training Centres operated normally through the reporting year, providing training places for 1,168 students, comprising 842 males and 326 females. Training was offered in 26 subjects. The Amman Training Centre provided training in post-secondary semi-professional subjects, including courses leading to qualification as assistant pharmacist and paramedical laboratory technician, and in business and office practice, business administration and dental hygiene as well as hairdressing for female trainees at the post-preparatory level. At the Amman Training Centre, 300 places were also provided for pre-service teacher training. At the Wadi Seer Training Centre, courses were offered in the mechanical, electrical and building trades, as well as in a range of technical and semi-professional areas. In the general comprehensive examination held in the summer of 1991 for community colleges in Jordan, students from the Amman Training Centre achieved a pass rate of 97 per cent. Regarding in-service teacher training, 227 teachers, training centre instructors and other education staff benefited from courses in a variety of subjects.

B. Health

41. Primary health care facilities in Jordan were further expanded by construction of a mother and child health care centre at Jebel Nuzha, construction of health centres in Suf camp and Amman New camp to replace old dilapidated premises and installation of three dental units at the Jordan Valley health points. Two mobile dental clinics were provided to serve the school population and mother and child health centres were established in the Amman and Balqa areas. Additional laboratories were established in the Baqa'a and Marka mother and child health centres and nine additional clinics were opened for control of non-communicable diseases. These improvements provided an expanded network of health care facilities comprising 20 health centres/mother and child health clinics, 16 dental clinics, 13 laboratories, 8 specialist clinics and 27 special care clinics, 16 for diabetes and 11 for hypertension. Meantime, implementation of a scheme for reimbursement of hospitalization expenses incurred by refugees, together with the downturn in the economy, resulted in a substantial increase in the number of claims and a high rate of expenditure.

42. In February 1992, cases of flaccid paralysis of children under five in the Jordan Valley were reported to the Ministry of Health by hospitals. In total, 32 children were affected, including 3 refugees. UNRWA augmented its efforts in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and other health providers to contain the outbreak. The Agency participated in the national poliomyelitis campaign which started in February and, in addition, introduced a fourth dose of polio vaccine early in the first month of life. As a precautionary measure, it was further decided to carry out mass immunization of children under five years in Gaza and the West Bank. The campaign was coordinated with the Israeli health authorities, who agreed to take similar measures for non-refugee children.

C. Relief and social services

43. Of the five fields, Jordan was the most affected in 1991/92 by the return of Palestinians from Kuwait and other Gulf States. The increase in the number of registered refugees over the reporting period, from 960,000 to nearly 1,011,000, was accounted for in part by the requests of those persons for updating of their registration records. In the main, it was not relief that those families sought but access to education and health services and assistance in finding employment, although relatively small numbers requested and were given cash grants to meet urgent needs in the initial period following their return. Indeed, despite the economic difficulties the country experienced, the demand for special hardship assistance from refugees meeting the criteria fell below 3 per cent of the registered refugee population, the lowest Agency-wide. The decrease was largely accounted for by the Jordan Government's suspension in 1992 of compulsory military service, releasing young men to seek work and support their families. The drive to rehabilitate dilapidated housing among destitute families was stepped up, and 84 shelters were repaired or reconstructed over the year. By the end of June 1992, 141 families were participating in self-support projects to generate an income of their own, and 97 families had achieved sufficient success in those enterprises to be taken off the ration rolls.

44. Particular attention was paid to refugees living at Aqaba, where UNRWA had hitherto perceived little need to supplement government services, given the employment opportunities offered by the port and related operations. The Gulf war and its aftermath seriously undermined the local economy, however, and Agency assistance was requested. A survey recorded almost 11,000 Palestine refugees entitled to registration. In May 1992, a small office to provide social welfare services was opened, together with a women's programme centre to offer training to women seeking employable skills and work opportunities.

45. The women's programme centre at Aqaba was one of those selected for a pilot project under the Palestinian Women's Initiative Fund, to equip the women with business and technical production skills and to assist them to set up their own income-generating enterprises. Other such schemes included the expansion of the wool-spinning project in Jerash women's programme centre and training for women in industrial machine-knitting processes to equip them for identified employment. Apart from Aqaba, new women's programme centres opened at Waqqas in the Jordan Valley and in Jerash camp. Courses diversified to include legal rights and household electrical and sanitary maintenance, important for income conservation. Literacy classes were conducted in two centres. Child care facilities, primarily to support working women, were attached to the centres at Waqqas and Aqaba.

46. A decade after the first community rehabilitation project for disabled refugees commenced in Jordan, a review of achievements and needs was conducted jointly with an international non-governmental organization in the summer of 1991, as the basis for determining the appropriate future direction of the programme. Jordan hosted an UNRWA-non-governmental organization conference in May 1992, which brought together refugee representatives from community rehabilitation centres Agency-wide with international and local non-governmental organizations and Agency staff. The conference unanimously adopted an agreement on the respective roles of the three partners. Financing was made available by UNRWA and international non-governmental organizations to ensure the continuity of the programme.

47. The worst winter in memory wreaked havoc throughout the region, affecting Jordan with special severity and requiring 147 refugee shelters to be reconstructed, another 527 repaired, and extensive repairs to be made to roads and pathways. Household kits, blankets, foodstuffs and cash grants were distributed in the meantime to those who had to be temporarily accommodated while their homes were rebuilt.

IV. LEBANON

A. Education

48. During the 1991/92 school year in Lebanon, the 77 UNRWA schools operated relatively normally. By the end of June 1992, less than 6 per cent of school days had been lost. A total of 34,400 pupils was served, approximately the same number as in the previous reporting year. Although UNRWA schools in Lebanon had fewer double-shifted classes than schools in the other four fields, the percentage was still significant. In 1991/92, 66 per cent of elementary classes were double-shifted as were 41 per cent of preparatory classes.

49. The social and political violence which had been endemic in Lebanon for over 16 years continued to affect education. In July 1991, two schools in the Sidon area, one in Mieh Mieh camp and one in Ein el-Hilweh, were severely damaged by shelling and required replacement. In December 1991, in response to the UNRWA general appeal, a donor pledged funds to rebuild the school at Mieh Mieh. Another donor contributed a school building in the Tyre area which began operations in January 1992. School construction projects completed during the reporting year included the renovation of all school premises in Nahr el-Bared camp as well as the complete reconstruction of Mount Tabor school, the renovation of Mansoura school, and the establishment of two learning resource centres in the central Lebanon area.

50. In August 1991, after a gap of 16 years, the Government of Lebanon reinstated its official examination, the Brevet, for pupils completing their tenth year of education (the last year of the preparatory cycle). Results of this examination for government, private and UNRWA pupils were poor, and clearly reflected the impact of 16 years of civil strife. In response, UNRWA implemented remedial measures and lengthened the normal school day by extending each class period to give pupils more instruction time.

51. Siblin Training Centre operated normally during most of the school year. Training places were provided for 608 students, comprising 518 males and 90 females. The second year of a new course in electronics was introduced in 1991/92, making a total of 17 vocational and technical courses offered at Siblin. Although the Centre had been given considerable financial support for re-equipping its courses in 1987 following a five-year closure, the facility still needed extensive improvements to update equipment and extend and improve workshop space. During the reporting year, the problem was, in part, addressed by construction projects which included the construction and equipping of two workshops for the introduction of new trade courses in hairdressing and auto-electrics for 1992/93. Regarding in-service teacher training, 166 teachers, head teachers and other education staff benefited from courses in a variety of subjects.

B. Health

52. The relative improvement in the security situation in Lebanon enabled the Agency to place special emphasis on expanding and upgrading its primary health care facilities and reducing reliance on private contracted institutions.

Construction of a mother and child care centre in Ein el-Hilweh camp was completed and work was in progress for the construction of new health centres in Burj el-Barajneh and El-Buss camps. Sidon Town health centre and Sidon temporary clinic were merged into one large polyclinic and the field pharmacy was relocated from Siblin Training Centre to the central warehouse in Beirut after completion of major renovation works. Two additional teams were established in the Sidon and Tyre areas to provide essential services to refugees in Ghazieh, Adloun, Sheheem, Qasmieh, Shabrieha and Mashouk villages.

53. Those improvements were further reinforced by installation of six dental units in Sidon Town, Wavell, Rashidieh, Beddawi, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh health centres and establishment of two clinical laboratories in Ein el-Hilweh and Wavell camps, which brought the total number of health care facilites to 25 health centres/points, 11 dental clinics, 10 clinical laboratories, 9 specialist clinics and 22 special care clinics each for diabetes and hypertension.

54. As a result of the comprehensive study carried out by WHO on water supply and liquid and solid waste disposal in refugee camps, the Agency made a special appeal for $10.5 million for environmental health projects based on the master plan. Funds were allotted to start an internal sewage network in Burj el-Barajneh camp.

C. Relief and social services

55. The loss of income or remittances from the Gulf and a winter which caused extensive damage to property and agriculture combined in Lebanon with already grave socio-economic problems to offer little hope of improvement in the near future for the Palestine refugees. The proportion of the registered refugee population eligible for and receiving special hardship assistance was the highest Agency-wide, and stood at 11.8 per cent at the end of the reporting period. Many families who did not qualify, because of the presence of an able-bodied adult male of working age, also experienced acute need and there was consequent pressure on the Agency to maintain emergency relief aid. Apart from those assisted under emergency programmes (reported elsewhere), 144 families had their shelters rehabilitated during the year. Refugees were especially receptive to offers of grants and technical support to establish small income-generating self-support enterprises. There were 154 of these projects active in Lebanon at the end of the reporting period, and 98 families had become independent of the ration rolls.

56. With the repeated disruption of schooling over the preceding 16 years, many refugees were not functionally literate. Through the women's programme centres and in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations, a literacy campaign was launched in the central Lebanon area in December, with 110 women enrolled in the first eight classes. The tutors were volunteers and themselves women refugees. Arrangements were in hand to extend this service to north Lebanon and later to other parts of the country as funding became available. Literacy was the first step to economic self-reliance for many women, and the nine women's programme centres offered a range of skill-training courses and production units in which trained women could earn an income. Under the Palestinian Women's Initiative Fund, the knitting production unit in Nahr el-Bared was to be developed into a better equipped

cooperative, managed by the women themselves. Concern continued for family health and child development, and workshops on ways in which women could promote those were conducted in the Tyre and north Lebanon centres. New women's programme centres opened in Rashidieh and Beddawi camps.

57. The community-based programme of rehabilitation of disabled refugees was launched in September 1991, with the opening of the Nahr el-Bared community rehabilitation centre, initially with an enrolment of 14 mentally retarded and 6 deaf-mute children. Parents and local welfare associations were mobilized to raise community awareness of the needs and potential of disabled persons and to secure funding for the centre. Local non-governmental organizations helped to train the volunteer rehabilitation workers. In Burj el-Barajneh and the Sidon area, joint surveys of the needs of the disabled were carried out by UNRWA and an international non-governmental organization, preparatory to encouraging a community programme. In December 1991, a skill training centre was opened in El-Buss camp jointly with a local non-governmental organization to provide vocational rehabilitation for physically and mentally disabled persons. Throughout the field, the relief and social services programme joined forces with the health and education services to promote the prevention of disability and the integration of disabled persons into mainstream programmes. UNRWA school premises and furniture were being adapted to cater for disabled pupils. In August 1991, a summer camp was held for 34 disabled children from Nahr el-Bared and Beddawi camps, and disabled children joined able-bodied Palestinian and Lebanese children in a two-week summer camp for 112 participants from all parts of the country in July.

D. Emergency operations and reconstruction

58. While the reporting period witnessed a general improvement in the security situation, the Lebanese economy, devastated by the war and requiring large infusions of international funds for reconstruction and development, was further hurt by high inflation and serious exchange-rate effects on the local currency. An estimated 200,000 Lebanese remained displaced after the conclusion of 16 years of civil war. An UNRWA survey of displaced Palestinians completed during the second quarter of the reporting period confirmed nearly 4,000 families as living in makeshift accommodation or squatting illegally. In November 1991, the Agency launched a special donor appeal that included a request for $3.3 million for immediate reconstruction of damaged shelters, or construction of new housing, for 657 families in Burj el-Barajneh, Burj el-Shemali, Rashidieh and Mieh Mieh camps. Between October 1991, when the UNRWA repair and reconstruction programme in Shatila camp resumed, and March 1992, the Agency received 532 applications for assistance and released more than $450,000 for work on 228 shelters. All whose shelters were repaired returned to Shatila camp.

59. UNRWA emergency operations continued to assist Palestinians most affected by the various rounds of fighting and violence, which did abate considerably following the first quarter of the reporting period, and the deteriorating socio-economic conditions. The Agency distributed $1.7 million worth of commodities to between 210,000 and 220,000 Palestinians in need in two rounds during the first two quarters, and began another distribution in February to address not only socio-economic difficulties but also the effects of the longest and most severe winter in living memory; more than $600,000 of

emergency food commodities had been distributed by April 1992. To determine and record the displaced Palestinians, the Agency took on additional staff and provided mattresses, blankets, kitchen kits, water containers, detergent and other relief supplies to the newly homeless, mostly in the first half of the period, which were often supplemented by small cash grants from a fund for temporary relief assistance. Approximately $330,000 was budgeted for 1992 for continued subsidizing of hospital expenses for entitled refugees as well as non-registered refugees, and for emergency medical supplies.

V. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

A. Education

60. During the 1991/92 school year in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Agency's 111 schools operated normally and without interruption. Pupils totalled 58,800, an increase of 1,600 from the previous year. Pupils of UNRWA schools continued to achieve a higher success rate in end of cycle preparatory level examinations than pupils from non-Agency schools.

61. A number of construction projects were undertaken during the reporting year. Those included the completion of a new school at Douma near Damascus, as well as the construction of three new classrooms to avoid triple shifting. Despite those construction efforts, many UNRWA schools in the Syrian Arab Republic remained inadequate, insufficient, and severely overcrowded. In 1991/92, 97 per cent of elementary classes operated on double shift, as did 41 per cent of preparatory classes. A sustained programme of construction over several years was still needed, but the Agency continued to experience difficulty in securing funds to carry out the programme at the desired speed.

62. The Damascus Training Centre operated smoothly, providing 776 training places for 660 males and 116 females. Courses were offered at the post-preparatory level in the mechanical, metal, electrical, electronics, building and construction trades. The second year of a new course in office machine mechanics was introduced. In addition, post-secondary semi-professional courses were offered in business and office practice, and paramedical and technical areas, and leading to such qualifications as, inter alia, architectural draughtsman and industrial electronics technician. In all, 20 vocational and technical subjects were provided. The Centre also implemented use of a computer laboratory to enrich the semi-professional courses, and installed a language laboratory to improve the English language skills of the trainees. In addition, a total of 94 teachers, head teachers and other staff were enrolled in in-service training courses in a broad range of subjects.

B. Health

63. Primary health care services were provided to Palestine refugees through a network of 22 health centres comprising 22 general clinics/mother and child clinics, 8 dental clinics, 11 laboratories, 2 specialist clinics, 21 diabetes clinics, 21 hypertension clinics and 22 family planning clinics. During the period under review, three clinical laboratories were established in Latakia, Sbeineh and Khan Dannoun health centres, an additional dental clinic was established in Homs camp and two water reservoirs were installed in Khan Eshieh and Sbeineh camps.

64. Additional resources, which had become available to the Agency as a result of access to a better exchange rate, were allotted to attain further improvements in health, including recruitment of additional staff, renovation of health centres and expansion of specialist clinics. Budget provisions for hospitalization costs proved to be inadequate and additional funds were allotted to overcome the growing difficulties and rapidly increasing expenses.

C. Relief and social services

65. The programme of home visits to families in need of special hardship assistance progressed satisfactorily, but revealed many more eligible refugees than expected. At the end of 1991, it was necessary to increase the allocation of food rations substantially, and by June 1992 the numbers of recipients of direct relief had increased by 28 per cent over the previous year. Persons registered as special hardship cases represented 6.7 per cent of the registered refugee population in the field at the end of the reporting period. Assistance for rehabilitation of dilapidated housing was augmented, and 176 shelters were repaired or reconstructed. Home visits also permitted the development of self-support projects to enable families to provide partially for their own needs, and there were 59 active projects being run individually, as well as group projects based on women's programme centres, which included women from special hardship families.

66. The women's programme throughout the field experienced an upsurge of energy and enthusiasm, much of it generated from the establishment of women's committees in each centre to plan and oversee activities. Two new women's programme centres were opened in Latakia and Khan Eshieh, the Jaramana women moved into new purpose-built premises and a new centre was being constructed in Dera'a to replace cramped rented facilities. Under the Palestinian Women's Initiative Fund, the first women's community bank was inaugurated on the initiative of refugee women in Qabr Essit and a knitting production unit started, both co-financed by the women themselves from the profits of their own production. Day-care facilities were established at several centres, again run by women volunteers from the camp who received token payment from mothers making use of them. Literacy classes were in particular demand in the Syrian Arab Republic and enrolled 307 women in six centres over the year, with assistance from the Ministry of Education. UNICEF made a valuable contribution to several training schemes to support the programme.

67. The first community rehabilitation centre in the field was opened in Nairab camp in September 1991, with an initial intake of 21 physically disabled or mentally retarded children. The volunteer rehabilitation workers and the local committee which ran the project both included disabled refugees, and the centre was seen as the responsibility of the camp community as a whole. An awareness campaign and survey of the disabled were conducted in Dera'a camp in preparation for a similar project which opened in June 1992, aimed in particular at deaf children. The Dera'a centre incorporated a production unit employing disabled persons which would help meet the running costs of the rehabilitation programme. Among special events, a sports festival was held in July 1991 for 175 disabled persons. Arrangements were made with several factory owners for disabled men and women to be trained in production techniques prior to the establishment of income-generating enterprises in which they could find employment.

68. The field promoted integrated approaches to community development through its own staff training programmes and in its various social services initiatives, with refugee women taking the lead. The Nairab community rehabilitation centre was partly supported by the profits from a production unit run by disabled women out of the camp women's programme centre, which also assisted pupils with learning difficulties or needing extra help to prepare for examinations. At the Latakia women's programme centre, similar

support was given to school-age children, and a project was mounted to assist elderly women and involve them more fully in the life of the community. The field also brought together refugees from different parts of the country, including 150 orphans who participated in a three-week summer camp in July 1991.

VI. OCCUPIED TERRITORY

A. West Bank

1. Education

69. The 98 UNRWA schools in the West Bank suffered periodic disruption during the reporting period. More than 41,000 pupils were served, almost 500 more than during the previous academic year. By the end of June 1992, 17 per cent of school days had been lost because of curfews, military closures, general strikes and other factors. To help counter loss of school time, UNRWA developed self-learning materials which were distributed to students. Another method implemented was the development of audio-visual materials for distance education, although the Agency still required considerable funding to supplement existing production facilities. Schools in the West Bank remained overcrowded, a problem which stemmed from natural population growth and from non-availability of suitable plots of land. Some rented schools in the West Bank were dilapidated and required replacement and 46 per cent of classes were operated in double shifts. In the reporting year, a new school was completed at Sur Baher and one classroom was constructed. Construction of a new school at Aqrabanieh village was delayed because construction plans were held up in lengthy review by the occupation authorities.

70. In July 1991, UNRWA pupils in 93 schools participated in summer activities, comprising sports, arts, culture, recreation and reading. Children thus received additional preparation for the 1991/92 school year, and were, to some extent, compensated for a portion of the approximately 40 per cent of school days that had been lost in academic year 1990/91. During 1991/92, UNRWA staff analysed achievement tests that had been given to determine the impact of interruption of education and school closure on pupils. Results disclosed a detrimental effect on all students, particularly in the lower grades, and in subjects such as mathematics and science. The field implemented remedial measures, although those necessarily fell short of entirely redressing the problem.

71. Plans were developed for the initiation of a tenth year in the basic education cycle scheduled to begin in September 1993 and for a new study plan, reflecting recent reforms in the education system of the Government of Jordan, the curriculum of which was followed in the West Bank. Plans for construction of 10 additional classrooms to accommodate the change were completed by June 1992.

72. The three Agency training centres in the West Bank, two at Ramallah and one at Kalandia, provided 1,072 places for vocational and technical training, an increase of 52 over the places offered in 1990/91. New second year courses were introduced in office machine mechanics and auto-electrics at Kalandia, and nursing at Ramallah Women's Centre. In the three centres, courses covered the mechanical, metal, electrical, electronic, building and construction trades. In addition, courses in nutrition and home management, clothing and hairdressing were offered at the Ramallah Women's Training Centre. The West Bank also offered post-secondary, semi-professional courses covering paramedical, construction, computer science, commercial, nutrition and home

institutional management occupations. The two centres at Ramallah provided 550 places for pre-service teacher training.

2. Health

73. To provide more accessible health care to the refugee population, new health centres were constructed in Deir Ammar, Fawwar and Doura and funds were allotted for construction of new health centres in Tulkarm and Far'a camps and to renovate and upgrade Jerusalem Town, Jalazone, Balata and Bethlehem health centres and Qalqiliya hospital. Construction and equipment of a new field pharmacy was also completed, two old dental units were replaced in Arroub and Jerusalem health centres, two new units were installed in Tulkarm and Qalqiliya health centres and a mobile dental unit was put into operation. Four additional clinical laboratories were established in Askar, Dheisheh, Shu'fat and Balata health centres. Furthermore, health services were reorganized in the Jerusalem and Jenin areas by the establishment of two additional health teams to increase the number of working days in existing health centres/points and expand services to new localities. As a result of those improvements, the UNRWA health infrastructure in the West Bank increased to a total of 34 health centres/points, 11 dental clinics, 10 laboratories, 3 radiology centres, 2 specialist clinics and 26 special care clinics for diabetes and hypertension.

74. The UNRWA agreement with Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem was revised, increasing the number of subsidized beds from 110 in 1991 to 118 in 1992 at revised rates. The cost of the increase was to be met in part by UNRWA ceasing to subsidize the cost of out-patient visits at that hospital, decreased reliance on Hadassah Hospital in West Jerusalem and increased use of the less expensive Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem. Under Operation Smile International, a group of plastic surgeons from the United States of America and Palestinian doctors carried out reconstructive surgery for needy Palestinian children with congenital and acquired deformities, orthopaedic anomalies and burn scar contractions, and provided education and training to local physicians and other professionals. UNRWA and non-governmental organizations identified 150 children from the West Bank and Gaza for such operations.

75. Under the UNRWA/WHO short-term plan of action on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, two inter-field training workshops were conducted in July 1991 and January 1992 for senior staff and technologists in blood transfusion services from the West Bank and Gaza, and on epidemiological surveillance for UNRWA senior staff from the five fields. Meanwhile, WHO provided HIV examination kits for non-govermental hospitals in the West Bank and the Central Blood Bank Society in Gaza. The expanded UNRWA programme of immunization was further strengthened by the introduction of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and hepatitis B vaccines supplied by the Public Health Department.

76. Progress in the environmental health sector comprised completion of the first phase of construction of an internal sewerage network at Dheisheh camp. About 3,500 metres of main pipes were laid and 172 manholes were constructed. Work on phase II (laying of the lateral lines) and phase III (house connections) was to start as soon as the municipality of Bethlehem completed the external connection line on which work had already started and was

expected to be completed by the end of 1992. Construction of the internal sewerage network at Am'ari camp was almost completed. About 4,000 metres of main and lateral lines were laid. Work was to be completed on the remaining house connections following the agreement with Al-Bireh Municipality. Meanwhile, design works for the internal sewerage systems for Aida and Beit Jibrin camps were completed. Work was to start as soon as the connecting line within the Bethlehem regional sewerage system was completed. Funds for implementing the internal sewerage systems at Askar, Tulkarm, Nur Shams and Jenin camps were allotted and work was due to start.

3. Relief and social services

77. In the occupied territory, the socio-economic impact of the loss of earnings and remittances from the Gulf States was compounded by the rise in local unemployment and difficulties faced by Palestinian enterprises. The ability of extended families to support dependent relatives continued to decline, and there was consequently an increased demand for special hardship assistance. This was not as high in the West Bank as in Gaza, given the more developed local infrastructure, but at the end of June 1992 7 per cent of the registered refugee population was nevertheless enrolled in the programme. Efforts continued to help those families to find ways of building up their own income-earning capabilities, and there were 58 active enterprises financed with self-help grants, apart from the loan-based projects reported elsewhere. The rehabilitation of the housing of special hardship families in the West Bank and Gaza was carried out under the expanded programme of assistance and is recorded in that section of this report.

78. In both the number of centres and range of activities, the women's programme in the West Bank expanded significantly over the year, with most of the 11 women's programme centres open from early morning until late afternoon. To compensate in part for the loss of work previously available to men, the Palestinian women were especially enterprising and numerous individual or group projects were established. Under the Palestinian Women's Initiative Fund, women in Aqabat Jabr camp were being trained in preparation for a group cooperative. At Nablus, a pilot business centre was being set up to carry out a number of activities, including selling on commission the products of women's production units in the area. In the newly established women's programme at the Dheisheh community centre, a pilot course on computer operations started in early 1992. Literacy classes at five centres had 82 participants, a number of them young women whose education had been disrupted by school closures. Greater efforts were being made to integrate disabled women into the skill-training courses and production units at the centres.

79. The community-based programme of rehabilitation for the disabled rapidly accelerated over the year, with the number of community rehabilitation centres run by refugee volunteers under the guidance of UNRWA increasing from one to four, located at Jericho, Dheisheh, Fawwar and Jenin, and preparations were well under way for another two in villages in the Nablus area. The Jericho centre made progress towards financial sustainability with the establishment of income-generating activities which both provided employment for disabled people and funds for the running costs of the centre. The centres were linked to local Palestinian specialist services for the disabled, to which children were referred for outpatient diagnosis and treatment. The volunteer

rehabilitation workers received training in those facilities and through the outreach programmes arranged by local universities. In Fawwar camp, a pilot project commenced in which teachers from local UNRWA schools and the centre volunteers cooperated to bring disabled children into the mainstream in the schools. UNRWA was represented on the Central National Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, which was developing plans and programmes for an integrated approach to disability in the West Bank.

80. The field was also involved in other initiatives to address social needs. Efforts were being made to reactivate the youth activities centres which had been closed for several years for security reasons, to provide once more a venue for organized sports and a place where young men could participate in literacy and other courses. The social dislocation exacerbated during the intifadah manifested itself in the increased incidence of problems such as drug addiction, and social workers were being trained to provide counselling to affected individuals and families.

B. Gaza Strip

1. Education

81. The 153 UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip suffered from significant disruption of education during the reporting year, although losses were less severe than in the previous year. By the end of June 1992, 12 per cent of school days had been lost, owing to curfews, military closures, general strikes and other factors. Six schools were closed by military order for more than two months, affecting over 4,100 pupils. Instead, pupils studied in mosques and other private locations, and achieved attendance rates there of not less than 95 per cent. Major disruptions occurred in May from incursions of Israeli settlers and security forces into school compounds, and from subsequent curfews. Final examinations were interrupted and had to be rescheduled.

82. During 1991/92, more than 100,000 pupils were served, 2,800 more than in 1990/91. Overcrowding, always a problem in UNRWA schools in Gaza, was unusually severe. Approximately 1,300 Palestine refugee pupils returning to Gaza from Kuwait and other Gulf States were absorbed into Agency schools. So were over 2,000 pupils who had originally been expected to attend government schools. Education in Gaza continued to take place in dilapidated school premises. Space was at a premium with over 70 per cent of classes double-shifted. Construction projects completed in Gaza during the reporting year included 23 school rooms for avoidance of triple shifting or for replacement of unsuitable classrooms, 4 specialized rooms and 29 toilet units.

83. In Gaza as in the West Bank, UNRWA developed self-learning materials to help offset the interruption of regular classroom activities. Those materials were distributed widely. Agency staff administered achievement tests to all grade levels in UNRWA schools to help assess the impact of the chronic school closures which began in 1988. The impact was detrimental, affecting all basic subjects. During the reporting period, remedial measures based upon test results were implemented.

84. During the academic year 1991/92, Gaza Training Centre lost 20 per cent of teaching days mainly because of curfews and general strikes. Nevertheless, the Centre operated relatively normally, providing 728 places to 687 males and 41 females. The Centre offered 16 two-year vocational and technical courses covering the mechanical, electrical and building trades. In 1987, the Centre had begun to phase in post-secondary semi-professional courses, mainly through extrabudgetary contributions. Three of those courses were already in operation in industrial electronics, physiotherapy and business and office practice. The second year of the industrial electronics course was established in 1991/92. A total of 220 teachers, head teachers and other staff benefited from in-service training courses in a variety of subjects.

2. Health

85. UNRWA provided primary health care services to approximately 529,000 Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip through a network of nine health centres located in the eight camps and Gaza town, seven mother and child care sub-centres, six maternity units, eight dental clinics, seven laboratories, five specialist clinics for obstetrics and gynaecology, chest diseases, paediatrics, cardiology and ophthalmology and nine family planning clinics. In spite of the pressing need to expand the available provision of health care facilities, the Agency continued to be prevented by the occupation authorities from implementing funded projects for the construction of new health centres in Beit Hanoun (Jabalia), Beach camp and Tel el-Sultan (Rafah). The only project which could move ahead was the construction of a new health centre in Deir el-Balah to replace the old deteriorated premises. Meantime, major renovation of Rimal health centre was completed, renovation of Jabalia health centre was in progress and funds were secured to construct a new laboratory in Bureij, renovate and upgrade Bureij, Maghazi and Nuseirat health centres, replace the maternity centre in Khan Younis and renovate and upgrade maternity units in Jabalia, Rafah and Nuseirat.

86. The continuous increase in the number of medical consultations, estimated at 24 per cent in 1991 over 1990, and the overcrowding of general clinics, estimated at 146 consultations per doctor per day, left the Agency with no option other than to open as from April 1992 a second afternoon shift with a full range of curative and preventive medical care services in the five largest camps in Gaza. Meanwhile, the Agency maintained its emergency medical care programme, comprising afternoon and night clinics, 24-hour ambulance service and six physiotherapy clinics.

87. Following completion of preparatory work, including a design brief and development plan, the Commission of the European Communities pledged ECU 13 million for the construction of a 232-bed hospital near Khan Younis and a contract for the complete architectural design and site supervision was awarded. Site survey and soil testing were carried out and the detailed architectural design was expected to be completed in December 1992, which would enable UNRWA to invite bids for and award the construction contract. Staff were appointed and arrangements were made to organize a post-graduate training programme at Makassed Hospital for general practitioners to meet the significant shortage of specializations needed for the hospital.

88. Environmental health continued to be one of the top priority concerns of the Agency. In the crowded refugee camps which housed over 50 per cent of the registered refugee population and nearly 40 per cent of the total population of the Gaza Strip, contamination of the environment was so severe as to constitute a major threat to the health and welfare of the population. Sewage and domestic waste water constituted perhaps the most urgent problem since only about 20 per cent of dwellings within camps were connected to sewers. There was an acute shortage of water for domestic and agricultural use and steady deterioration in water quality, with concentration of nitrates exceeding in some instances 10, even 20 times, acceptable international standards. Realizing that the problems in the camps could not be solved independently and that the problems of water supply, sewage, drainage and solid wastes could only be solved through a coordinated planning and development approach involving all parties concerned, the Agency transferred the post of Chief, Environmental Health from UNRWA Headquarters Branch (Amman) to Gaza to develop appropriate coordinating mechanisms and start comprehensive planning to identify projects that could be presented to donors.

3. Relief and social services

89. It was in the Gaza Strip that the most serious deterioration in economic activity and the social fabric of the Palestinian community was witnessed. By the end of the reporting period, 10.3 per cent of the registered refugees were receiving special hardship assistance, and many others were being helped under the emergency food aid programmes reported elsewhere. At the end of 1991 it was necessary to augment the field's planned allotment of rations, and by June 1992 the assistance had increased by 15.3 per cent over the 1991 provision. The biggest increases were among families of men imprisoned by the Israeli authorities (23.7 per cent) and even more among those of men suffering from illness and temporary disabilities (122.7 per cent). The field made a special effort to develop self-support projects through which those families could earn an income, and 72 projects were active by the end of the reporting period. About a quarter of the special hardship families lived in unsatisfactory housing, efforts to improve which are reported under the expanded programme of assistance.

90. As in the West Bank, there was a growing awareness of the needs of disabled persons and a determination to involve them more in the life of the community. Gaza's first community rehabilitation centre opened in Jabalia camp in September 1991, funded by the local community and international non-governmental organizations with assistance from UNRWA for premises, start-up costs and training of the volunteer rehabilitation workers. The Jabalia initiative sparked widespread interest, and representatives from communities throughout the Strip approached the Agency for similar support. Several surveys of the incidence of disability and the needs of the disabled were conducted and a centre to be opened in Rafah camp was to be followed by others. At Jabalia, volunteers began a three-month training programme in May for rehabilitation work in the home. Volunteers from the centres and local non-governmental organizations participated with UNRWA social workers in workshops run by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the autumn of 1991 in vocational rehabilitation, selective placement techniques and the training of community-based vocational and social workers. Similar courses were held for West Bank workers, reaching in all 76 community workers. The

skills of UNRWA staff at the Training Centre for the Blind were also upgraded over the year with the help of a non-governmental association. Sight-impaired children were integrated with sighted children through joint programmes with local kindergartens in the refugee camps. In August 1991, 30 disabled and able-bodied children worked and played together in a pioneering summer camp.

91. As in other fields, there was a growing demand from women in the Gaza Strip for training in skills they could use to conserve or produce income. Here even more than elsewhere, the women's programme centres were seen as among the few socially acceptable places where this could take place. Work which could be carried out in the home was particularly sought, with pressure on those women who had been engaged by factories and workshops to remain at home and make room for unemployed men. Under the Palestinian Women's Initiative Fund, workshops in household maintenance were being arranged at each of the 14 women's programme centres, and plans were in hand for a cooperative to serve the local market. Gaza had a well-established project producing traditional embroidered articles for domestic and export sale, which was assisted during the year by a marketing survey which recommended changes for improved sales. Literacy classes run with a local non-governmental organization reached 165 women during the year. In the centres, the women formed committees to plan and run activities. In response to a demand from women themselves, a one-month course on women's legal rights was conducted by Palestinian women lawyers in May 1992.

92. The Gaza field also responded to the interest of young men in reactivating the youth activities programme, once popular throughout the Strip but progressively closed by the authorities during the 1980s. For the first time since the start of the intifadah, 29 summer camps jointly arranged with local and international non-governmental organizations were held for 3,700 youngsters during the 1992 summer vacation.

C. Extraordinary measures

93. The intifadah entered its fifth year on 9 December 1991. Although there were hopes on both sides that the peace process would bring tangible results, it became clear that confrontations and clashes would not end, that the overall economic situation was not improving and that the Palestinians in the occupied territory required continued, and in some areas increased, emergency assistance from UNRWA. In the four years ending 31 December 1991, expenditure on extraordinary measures for the occupied territory and Lebanon totalled more than $128 million. A further $49 million was budgeted for the biennium 1992-1993.

94. The unanticipated special food distribution that was required, beginning in January and February 1991, because of Israeli measures imposed at the time of the Gulf war lasted through four rounds and was completed during the reporting period. A total of more than 35,000 tonnes of commodities was distributed to more than 300,000 Palestinian families in need, including refugees and non-refugees. However, the drop in remittances from the Gulf, together with various new official restrictions on employment in Israel and the replacement of many Palestinian labourers by Israeli immigrants, caused an already poor income and employment picture to become much worse. This meant that food aid for needy persons had to continue at a higher level than UNRWA

preferred, but where possible the Agency tried to combine food aid with some work under a food for work scheme, such as packing or actual distribution handling by selected needy Palestinians, in order to promote a sense of the communities helping themselves. Although UNRWA continued emergency assistance to an additional 3,600 special hardship case beneficiaries in the occupied territory, it wished to encourage and support self-assistance where possible.

95. The Agency budgeted just over $1 million for the West Bank and Gaza for 1992 for temporary assistance to families suffering intifadah-related death or injury or detention by the Israeli authorities or whose shelters had been demolished or sealed. An extra $100,000 was provided for Palestinians in Gaza who had yet to find suitable accommodation after demolition or sealing dating from the early days of the uprising. Another $100,000 worth of roofing sheets and cement was provided for shelter repairs needed as a result of the extremely diffficult winter of 1991/92.

96. In the health sector the Agency continued to operate emergency clinics, although the number of teams was reduced by five in West Bank and three in the Gaza Strip, for a total of 24, each staffed by a doctor, practical nurse and ambulance driver. Subsidizing of additional beds or patient expenses for the two fields was budgeted for 1992 at $300,000, with another $300,000 intended for medical supplies for treating emergency cases in UNRWA clinics. The Agency continued to provide skimmed milk and baby cereals or dry rations to a total of 34,500 additional nutritionally-at-risk infants, school-age children and pregnant or nursing women.

97. In education, UNRWA earmarked $100,000 in Gaza and the West Bank, with an additional reserve of $100,000 at Headquarters, for supplies and equipment to produce self-learning materials for elementary and preparatory school students. This helped partially to offset the consequences of interruptions caused by school closures, curfews, strikes and disturbances. In addition, the Agency had no alternative in many cases but to reconstruct boundary walls surrounding school premises or to erect new mesh fences. The Israeli security forces issued military closure orders against some schools, and threatened to close others, refusing to re-open them unless reconstruction of walls or fences was completed.

98. In general, protective and emergency services and the Agency's refugee affairs officer programme continued with 21 internationally recruited staff providing passive protection, and direct assistance where possible, to Palestinian civilians. They also helped to ensure minimal disruption to Agency services at its schools, health centres and other facilities. The legal aid programme assisted an increasing number of Palestinians who required advice or referral to private lawyers for redress of grievances or for whom the Agency's intervention with the occupation authorities might have a positive effect. The total cost of the refugee affairs officer and legal programmes in the two fields was approximately $3 million per year.

D. Expanded programme of assistance

99. In 1988, UNRWA launched the expanded programme of assistance to the occupied territory aimed at improving living conditions in the refugee camps. Specific objectives included, inter alia, sustainable employment through

support to existing or new enterprises, improving the environmental sanitation in the camps and improving the Agency's installations through which services were delivered. The expanded programme of assistance was established with a target figure of $65 million, against which $45 million had been received or pledged by mid-1992.

100. The return of thousands of jobless migrant workers and their families to the UNRWA area of operations aggravated the economic and social situation in the receiving countries and forced the Agency to take immediate emergency measures. The consequences of the Gulf crisis and the war were felt most in Jordan. The sudden demand for additional health, education, relief and social services obliged the Agency to respond quickly. UNRWA could only cope with such a situation by enlarging in scope its expanded programme of assistance to cover areas outside the occupied territory, such as Jordan. In addition, UNRWA appealed in November 1991 and April 1992 to the international community to fund construction projects, equipment and medical supplies, and small-scale income-generating projects to assist the hardest hit areas of operation. In response to the appeal, the Agency received $6.4 million.

101. In July 1991, UNRWA set up a revolving loan fund in the Gaza Strip, followed by similar funds created in the West Bank and Jordan. The objective of this income-generating programme through soft loans was to support the expansion of existing or the establishment of new small-scale enterprises and, thus, the creation of employment opportunities and the provision of goods and services for the local market. By the end of the reporting period, donors had contributed $2.2 million specifically for the Agency's revolving loan funds.

102. UNRWA continued to give priority to the construction of schools and the improvement of housing in the camps, including environmental sanitation. At the end of the reporting period, 53 projects were under negotiation with potential donors, 129 projects were under implementation, and 24 projects had been completed. Seven construction projects for which funds were available were unable to proceed with implementation because permits had not been received from the Israeli authorities.

VII. LEGAL MATTERS

A. Agency staff

103. In comparison with the relatively high levels of recent years, there was a decline in the number of staff members in the occupied territory arrested and held in detention without trial. The number of staff arrested and detained in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic also decreased, though the number in Jordan increased. Nevertheless, 61 staff members were so detained during the reporting period, of whom 51 were arrested and released without charge or trial and 10 remained in detention at the end of the reporting period. One staff member in the Gaza Strip remained under order of deportation at the end of the reporting period (see annex I, table 11).

104. In spite of the Agency's frequent approaches to the authorities, UNRWA remained unable during the reporting period to obtain adequate and timely information on the reasons for the arrest and detention of its staff members. In the absence of such information, the Agency was unable to ascertain whether the official functions of staff members were relevant to their arrest and detention. Hence it was unable to ensure that their rights and duties flowing from the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 1946 and the relevant Staff Regulations and Rules of UNRWA were duly respected.

105. The Agency had access to 6 staff members from the West Bank and 18 staff members from the Gaza Strip detained in prisons and detention centres in the occupied territory and in Israel. The Agency was unable, despite approaches to the relevant Governments, to visit staff in detention in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

106. The treatment of staff members in detention in the occupied territory was a major cause of concern to the Agency, with staff members upon their release complaining of ill-treatment, including beatings and psychological abuse. In the performance of their duties, staff members, both international and locally recruited, continued to be subjected by members of the Israeli security forces to various forms of mistreatment, including beatings, threats, insults, intimidation and temporary detention. Fifty-eight such cases of mistreatment of staff were recorded during the year in the Gaza Strip and 70 in the West Bank. For example, on 1 August 1991, while an international staff member and his assistant were in Balata camp in the West Bank, border police passing in a jeep threw a tear-gas grenade into their clearly marked car. Both staff members were consequently affected by the gas; there were no disturbances in the vicinity at the time of the incident. On 7 January 1992 in the course of disturbances in the Sheikh Radwan area of Gaza town, an UNRWA ambulance transporting an injured person to hospital was stopped by a military patrol and one soldier smashed the windscreen; a second patrol, which stopped the ambulance shortly thereafter, beat the ambulance driver and the accompanying UNRWA nurse with guns and clubs, the driver sustaining noticeable injuries to his face as a result.

107. Two local staff members in the Gaza Strip were killed by persons unknown for alleged collaboration with the Israeli authorities.

108. The Agency continued to experience difficulties in the movement of staff members in and out of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. There were substantial delays in the clearance of staff members for travel on official duty. In particular, in several cases the Israeli authorities refused without adequate explanation to grant the necessary permits to allow staff members to leave the Gaza Strip on official duty. The frequent imposition of curfews and the designation of closed military areas constituted considerable impediments to the free movement of staff members, with the Israeli authorities continuing to insist that local staff members could operate only if in possession of curfew permits issued by the Civil Administration. The periodic restrictions on access to Israel and East Jerusalem imposed on residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip caused delays in the movement of staff members. The Agency experienced particular difficulties in obtaining entry for its local drivers to Ben Gurion International Airport in Israel, despite assurances from the Israeli authorities that such entry would be facilitated.

B. Agency services and premises

109. In providing essential services to the local population in the occupied territory, the Agency had to work in an atmosphere which remained characterized by ongoing violence. The Agency recorded a total of 121 persons killed and a total of 5,500 persons, including a substantial number of women and children, injured in clashes with the Israeli security forces during the period (see annex 1, table 12).

110. Agency staff, in particular the Agency's refugee affairs officers and legal officers, continued their efforts to provide for the safety and security of the local population of the occupied territory and to safeguard their legal and human rights by providing a level of protection and humanitarian assistance in a variety of situations. Approaches to the local military authorities by Agency staff present at potentially violent situations were at times successful in helping to defuse tensions and hence lower casualties. Refugee affairs officers assisted in the evacuation of wounded persons and otherwise facilitated the provision of medical services, often in tense and difficult circumstances. They also facilitated Agency operations by, for example, ensuring that clinics and schools remained operational, that food distributions were successfully carried out, and that the privileges and immunities attaching both to UNRWA staff members and to UNRWA installations were respected. Their approaches to the local military authorities often assisted in solving a variety of day-to-day problems experienced by members of the local population, including problems associated with arrests and detentions, the confiscation of identity cards and the holding of funerals, and problems associated with the imposition of curfews and travel restrictions. As part of the Agency's efforts in this regard, it continued to provide legal advice and a measure of financial assistance to refugees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip seeking to assert their legal rights. The Agency continued to have reason to protest against a variety of measures taken by the Israeli security forces, including incidents of the use of live ammunition during civil disturbances or other incidents of excessive use of force, the demolition and sealing of homes and interferences with the provision of medical services. On those occasions when the Israeli authorities answered Agency protests, they cited military security as justification for their actions.

111. During the reporting period there were 117 incursions into Agency installations by members of the Israeli security forces in the West Bank and 210 such incursions in the Gaza Strip. At times those resulted in threats against, and injury to, Agency staff and damage to Agency property. The Agency recorded 94 incidents in which the Agency's clinic and hospital premises were entered. For example, on 10 April 1992 military personnel entered and searched the Agency's health centre in Khan Younis camp in the Gaza Strip, despite the protests of Agency staff present; in the course of the search the delivery room of the centre's maternity unit was searched while a delivery was in progress. On 26 November 1991 border police personnel fired tear gas into the UNRWA girls' school in Shu'fat camp in the West Bank, necessitating medical treatment for affected students and teachers, including two pregnant teachers who required hospital treatment; there were no disturbances in the vicinity of the school at the time. On occasion, Agency premises were utilized by the Israeli security forces in the course of military operations. The Agency protested against such incursions as an abuse of its privileges and immunities. On those occasions when replies were received from the Israeli authorities, their explanations invoked considerations of military security. The Agency was pursuing the legal and other aspects of these matters, as appropriate. Two long-standing incursions into Agency premises (mentioned in the annual reports of preceding years) continued, despite repeated protests by the Agency, namely, the presence of a military observation post on the roof of an Agency school building in Aqabat Jabr camp in the West Bank which had been virtually continuous since November 1989; and the fencing-off by the Israeli military authorities of the UNRWA women's programme centre in Jabalia camp in the Gaza Strip since May 1990.

112. Of particular concern to the Agency during the reporting period were those cases in which Agency medical and ambulance services were interfered with and, on occasion, prevented from operating. In the Gaza Strip alone, 31 incidents were recorded during the reporting period, during which ambulances were stopped, searched and on occasion shot at and ambulance drivers and accompanying medical personnel were at times beaten and had their identity documents confiscated. By way of example, on 9 March 1992 in Arroub camp in the West Bank, an UNRWA ambulance transporting to hospital a man shot by the Israeli security forces was stopped at the camp entrance by military personnel, who delayed passage of the ambulance for some 10 minutes while the ambulance was searched and the driver's identification papers checked. The injured man subsequently died from his injuries en route to a local hospital.

113. The demolition of houses and camp shelters for punitive reasons continued in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Within refugee camps in the West Bank, the Israeli authorities demolished seven rooms in two shelters, affecting two families totalling 16 persons, and sealed a further eight rooms affecting five families totalling 33 persons. Outside the camps, some 86 additional rooms in dwellings were demolished in the West Bank for punitive reasons. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli authorities demolished 60 rooms in 12 shelters, affecting 24 families totalling 158 persons, and sealed a further 40 rooms affecting 11 families, that is, 74 persons. The Agency protested against those actions as being contrary to articles 33 and 53 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The Israeli authorities continued to object to the reconstruction of demolished shelters in camps, despite earlier assurances by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs that no such objection would be raised.

114. As mentioned in last year's report, the Israeli authorities continued to insist that new construction begun by the Agency be subjected to detailed and time-consuming procedures. This caused considerable delays in implementing various much-needed construction projects, particularly in the Gaza Strip. As also mentioned in that report, the Agency undertook appropriate consultation with the Israeli authorities and coordination of its construction activities. By the end of the reporting period, initiation of nine such planned constructions remained delayed in the Gaza Strip, including two much-needed clinics in Rafah town and Beach camp, both delayed since January 1990, and two in the West Bank.

115. The Israeli authorities attempted to impose restrictions on the amount of items imported for the Agency's essential operations and subjected to long delays the clearing through Israeli ports of certain items urgently needed by the Agency for its official use. The Agency continued to regard these actions as incompatible with the terms of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. Compensation claimed by the Agency in respect of items, mentioned in the previous report, which were sold off by the Israeli authorities pending clearance had not been paid by the Israeli authorities by the end of the period under review.

116. As described in the annual reports of 1989, 1990 and 1991, the Government of Israel in August 1988, citing temporary budgetary constraints, suspended payment of clearance, warehousing and transport charges, for which it was responsible in respect of UNRWA supplies under the terms of the Comay-Michelmore agreement of 1967. The Agency advanced sums to cover these payments during the period of their suspension from 1988 to 1991, on the understanding that the sums so advanced would be reimbursed by the Israeli authorities. As from 1 January 1992, the Government of Israel resumed payment of current charges, but had not reimbursed the Agency the sums it advanced during the period of the suspension. By the end of the reporting period the arrears owed to the Agency amounted to $7.7 million.

C. Claims against Governments

117. The Agency regretted that no progress was made with regard to its various claims against Governments.

VIII. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. Fund structure

118. During the reporting period, UNRWA received contributions and incurred expenditure under the following main headings:

(a) Regular programme;

(b) Extraordinary measures in Lebanon and the occupied territory (EMLOT);

(c) Expanded programme of assistance (EPA);

(d) Gaza general hospital project.

119. The regular programme was budgeted and accounted for under the following sections:

(a) General fund;

(b) Funded ongoing activities;

(c) Capital and special projects.

120. The budgets under the general fund and funded ongoing activities covered all recurrent costs incurred for the implementation of the Agency's regular main programmes, namely its regular education, health and relief and social services programmes, as well as those activities required to support services such as the technical and supply and transport functions, data processing, administration and management.

121. Funded ongoing activities, while just as much a part of the Agency's regular programme as those funded under the general fund, were funded separately by certain donors who took the responsibility of funding a number of defined Agency activities. Examples of such activities were the Agency's supplementary feeding programme and the operation of some of its vocational training centres. If such separate funding ceased, the costs would again have to be borne by the general fund.

122. Capital projects represented investments required to improve the Agency's capital facilities, such as schools, health clinics and various relief and social services centres, and to bring these up to an acceptable level. For those projects, special contributions were sought from donors in addition to their regular contributions to UNRWA. Where the Agency's financial situation so allowed, funds available under the general fund could also be used to implement some of the urgently needed capital projects.

123. The special projects were all funded separately from contributions received specifically for those projects. They were usually of an ongoing nature and in this respect and with regard to the way in which they were funded they resembled the Agency's funded ongoing activities. There was, however, an important difference. Although the special projects formed part of the UNRWA regular programme they were by definition not a part of its core

activities. The implication was that if special contributions for such projects ceased, those would not automatically revert to the general fund but might have to be discontinued.

124. The fund for extraordinary measures in Lebanon and the occupied territory (EMLOT) was created in 1990 through the amalgamation of the Lebanon emergency fund, established in 1982, and a similar fund for the occupied territory which was established shortly after the beginning of the intifadah. The aim of this fund was to alleviate the problems faced by the refugees in Lebanon and the occupied territory arising from the particularly difficult prevailing circumstances. Examples of activities funded by EMLOT were a significant expansion of the Agency's emergency health services, considerable additional food distributions, some cash assistance to the most needy refugees and the operation of a programme of general assistance, including refugee affairs officers and some limited legal assistance.

125. The expanded programme of assistance (EPA) was also created in 1988 following the outbreak of the intifadah. Its aim was to help to improve the living conditions and deteriorated infrastructure in the occupied territory. Shelter rehabilitation and sewerage schemes were among the actitivies covered by this fund. Other aims were to improve the supply of potable water, income generation and to a limited extent the quality of certain Agency facilities in the area. In 1991, as a result of the Gulf crisis, EPA was extended to cover similar needs in other parts of the UNRWA area of operations.

126. The fund for the Gaza General Hospital Project was launched in 1990 in recognition of the serious need for more hospital beds and medical services.

B. Biennial budget for 1992-1993 and past expenditure

127. Effective 1 January 1992, the Agency switched from an annual to a biennial budget which placed it in line with the majority of United Nations organizations. Another change that occurred during the preparation of this first biennial budget covering the years 1992-1993 was that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions became involved for the first time in the UNRWA budgetary process by examining and making available to the Agency's Advisory Commission its views on the administrative and support cost aspects of the budget. Both those changes were reflected in amendments to the financial regulations of UNRWA.

128. The Agency's expenditure in 1991 and its budget for 1992-1993, as approved by the General Assembly, are summarized in annex I, table 14.

C. Income and sources of funding

129. Except for an amount received from the United Nations to cover the cost of part of the UNRWA international staff, representing about 3 per cent of the Agency's regular budget, all UNRWA programmes and activities were funded by voluntary contributions. The vast majority of these contributions were received in cash while the majority of the Agency's food requirements were covered by donations received in kind. Annex I, table 13 shows contributions in cash and in kind by Governments and by the European Economic Community.

D. Current financial situation

130. The Agency ended 1991 with an excess of income over expenditure sufficient to increase its working capital by $2 million and establish a special reserve for emergencies and other contingencies at a level of $6.5 million. The setting up of this reserve should be seen in the light of prevailing uncertainties regarding future developments in the area and the current shortage of funds for EMLOT, which was, at the end of the reporting period, showing a projected deficit by the end of 1992 in the order of $5 million, unless additional contributions were forthcoming. The working capital of the Agency's general fund amounted by the end of 1991 to $33.7 million, which was equal to the expenditure that UNRWA incurred for its regular programme for a period of six to seven weeks.

131. The fund for funded ongoing activities, which formed an integral part of the UNRWA core programme, showed a negative balance of $6.3 million. The main reason for this was that some major contributions, subsequently received, had not been paid as expected by the end of 1991.

132. The EMLOT fund showed a positive balance of $5.5 million. This money, together with all contributions received in the first half of 1992, was subsequently utilized. By the end of the reporting period, the Agency was close to running out of funds for EMLOT (see also para. 130 above).

133. Other fund balances by the end of 1991 were:

	$ million
Capital and special projects	11.2
EPA	24.8

While these figures might appear to represent considerable amounts held by UNRWA, it should be noted that a significant portion was received in late 1991 and could therefore not be spent before the end of the year. In addition, these funds were largely received from donors designating them for specific purposes and were thus not available to cover any possible future cash deficit in the general fund. It was essentially in the general fund and EMLOT that the Agency's potential financial problems lay.

ANNEX I

Statistical and financial information

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* For more detailed information on the financing of the Agency's programmes, see the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1991 and the report of the Board of Auditors (Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5C (A/47/5/Add.3)).

Table 1. Number of registered persons a/

(As at 30 June each year)

Field	1950	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1991	1992
Lebanon	127 600	136 561	159 810	175 958	196 855	226 554	263 599	302 049	310 585	319 427
Syrian Arab Republic	82 194	115 043	135 971	158 717	184 042	209 362	244 626	280 731	289 923	299 207
Jordan	506 200	613 743	688 089	506 038	625 858	716 372	799 724	929 097	960 212	1 010 719
West Bank b/	-	-	-	272 692	292 922	324 035	357 704	414 298	430 083	459 147
Gaza Strip	198 227	255 542	296 953	311 814	333 031	367 995	427 892	496 339	528 684	560 207
Total	914 221 c/	1 120 889	1 280 823	1 425 219	1 632 707	1 844 318	2 093 545	2 422 514	2 519 487	2 648 707

a/ These statistics are based on UNRWA registration records, which are updated continually. The number of registered refugees present in the Agency's area of operations, however, is almost certainly less than the population recorded. The Agency's budgeted expenditure is based not on the registration records but on the projected numbers of beneficiaries of its services. In 1991/92, 374,406 persons were enrolled in education or training programmes, approximately 2.2 million were eligible for health care and, as at 30 June 1992, 178,323 persons were registered as special hardship cases.

b/ Until 1967, the West Bank of Jordan was administered as an integral part of the Jordan field.

c/ This total excludes 45,800 persons receiving relief in Israel, who were the responsibility of UNRWA until June 1952.

Table 2. Distribution of registered population

(As at 30 June 1992)

Field	Registered population	Number of camps	Total camp population a/	Registered persons not in camps	Percentage of population not in camps
Lebanon	319 427	13 b/	160 883	158 544	50
Syrian Arab Republic	299 207	10	87 807	211 400	71
Jordan	1 010 719	10	233 659	777 060	77
West Bank	459 147	20 b/	120 786	338 361	74
Gaza Strip	560 207	8	308 309	251 898	45
Total	2 648 707	61	911 444	1 737 263	66

a/ It is estimated that a further 52,000 persons, who are not registered refugees, live in camps. About 37,000 of these are persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 hostilities.

b/ Of these, 12 are inhabited in Lebanon and 19 in the West Bank.

Table 3. Number and distribution of special hardship cases

(As at 30 June 1992)

Field	Number of families	Number of persons			Percentage of refugee population
		Receiving rations	Not receiving rations a/	Total	
Lebanon	9 327	37 326	524	37 850	11.85
Syrian Arab Republic	5 308	18 268	1 878	20 146	6.73
Jordan	6 811	27 961	2 020	29 981	2.97
West Bank	7 719	29 441	3 012	32 453	7.07
Gaza Strip	11 900	55 536	2 357	57 893	10.33
Total	41 065	168 532	9 791	178 323	6.73

a/ Includes children under one year of age, students studying away from home, etc.

Table 4. Social services programme

(1 July 1991-30 June 1992)

Field	Youth activities		Women's programme		Craft training		Support for disabled persons			Income-generation					
							Community-based rehabilitation		Specialized facilities	Self-support grants				Production units at women's programme centres	
										Up to 6/91		7/91 to 6/92			
	Centres	Participants	Centres	Participants	Sewing and embroidery graduates	Carpentry graduates	Centres	Participants	Referrals	No.	Grants $	No.	Grants $	Centres	Participants
Lebanon	-	-	10	789	207	Nil	1	20	34	141	348 924	44	172 914	6	56
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	11	2 090	293	Nil	2	30	11	54	148 952	18	100 919	3	18
Jordan	-	-	19	3 000	270	Nil	5	230	44	140	262 936	22	108 043	3	50
West Bank	17	1 500	11	745	209	45	4	102	60	59	397 883	9	62 355	Nil	Nil
Gaza Strip	8 a/	2 400	14	1 300	240	Nil	2	85	35	33	160 436	42	209 872	20	75
Total	25	3 900	65	7 924	1 219	45	14	467	183	427	1 319 131	135	654 103	32	199

a/ One centre is temporarily closed by the Israeli authorities.

Table 5. Distribution of refugee pupils in UNRWA schools a/

(As at 15 October 1991)

Field	Number of UNRWA schools	Number of teachers	Number of pupils in elementary classes b/			Number of pupils in preparatory classes b/			Total number of pupils
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Lebanon	77	1 202	12 333	11 847	24 180	5 067	5 194	10 261	34 441
Syrian Arab Republic	111	1 637	20 892	19 592	40 484	9 508	8 797	18 305	58 789
Jordan	197	3 875	49 291	47 433	96 724	22 013	21 292	43 305	140 029
West Bank	98	1 377	12 940	16 050	28 990	5 597	6 503	12 100	41 090
Gaza Strip	153	2 797	37 406	34 972	72 378	14 577	13 102	27 679	100 057
Total	636	10 888	132 862	129 894	262 756	56 762	54 888	111 650	374 406

a/ Excludes an estimated total of 151,412 refugee pupils attending elementary, preparatory and secondary government and private schools.

b/ Including non-eligible children attending UNRWA schools, who number 58,263.

Table 6. Training places in UNRWA training centres

(Academic year 1991/92)

	Lebanon		Syrian Arab Republic		Jordan				West Bank						Gaza Strip				
	Siblin Training Centre		Damascus Training Centre		Amman Training Centre		Wadi Seer Training Centre		Kalandia Training Centre		Ramallah Women's Training Centre		Ramallah Men's Training Centre		Gaza Training Centre		Total		Grand total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
A. Vocational and technical education																			
1. Post-preparatory level a/	332	-	520	-	-	60	560	-	400	-	-	156	-	-	608	-	2 420	216	2 636
2. Post-secondary level b/	186	90	140	116	81	239	201	27	144	-	-	236	136	-	79	41	967	749	1 716
Total	518	90	660	116	81	299	761	27	544	-	-	392	136	-	687	41	3 387	965	4 352
B. Pre-service teacher training	-	-	-	-	125	175	-	-	-	-	-	300	250	-	-	-	375	475	850
Grand total	518	90	660	116	206	474	761	27	544	-	-	692	386	-	687	41	3 762	1 440	5 202

a/ Courses in mechanical, metal, electrical and building trades.

b/ Courses in technical, commercial, electronics, computer science and paramedical fields.

Table 7. University scholarship-holders by faculty and country of study

(Academic year 1991/92)

	Lebanon		Syrian Arab Republic		Jordan		West Bank		Egypt		Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		Others a/		Total		Grand total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Engineering	18	1	14	9	54	20	37	12	6	1	13	–	13	–	149	43	192
Medicine	1	1	51	23	28	11	–	–	4	–	1	4	5	5	97	40	137
Science	15	4	–	–	13	19	19	13	6	3	1	–	1	–	55	39	94
Pharmacy	3	3	7	8	36	16	–	–	4	–	–	2	–	2	52	29	81
Arts	–	2	–	–	9	14	6	14	1	–	–	–	–	–	16	30	46
Dentistry	–	–	20	14	6	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	28	16	44
Business administration	1	1	–	–	4	5	3	2	2	1	1	–	2	–	13	9	22
Education	–	–	–	–	4	4	3	2	3	3	1	–	1	1	11	10	21
Nursing	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	6	8
Laboratory technician	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	3	–	–	1	–	1	–	3	3	6
Agriculture	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	3
Physical education	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	3
Law	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	1	2
Computer	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Nutrition science	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1
Total	38	12	92	54	161	94	71	50	26	10	18	6	24	8	433	228	661

a/ Other countries were: Turkey (21 male students), Yemen (2 male and 1 female students), Algeria (1 male and 1 female student), Tunisia (1 male student), Sudan (1 male student) and Iraq (1 male student).

Table 8. Medical care services

(1 July 1991-30 June 1992)

Type of service	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic	Jordan	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
A. Curative medical care						
1. Out-patient care						
Number of patients	129 387	142 423	287 664	151 864	249 049	960 387
Number of patient visits:						
Medical treatment a/	709 538	772 680	1 358 388	904 008	2 013 404	5 758 018
Dental treatment	159 142	52 677	143 091	45 741	83 161	483 812
2. In-patient care b/						
Hospital beds available	211	45	0	206	47	509
Beds/1,000 population ratio	0.78	0.17	0	0.59	0.09	0.22
Number of patients admitted	9 056	4 190	11 329	18 497	3 735	46 807
Annual patient days per 1,000 population	267	49	43	200	33	91
B. Preventive medical care						
1. Maternal and child health care						
Pregnant women (average monthly attendance)	1 470	1 720	4 995	3 636	8 720	20 541
Children below 3 years (average attendance) c/	12 154	16 501	43 356	24 413	44 752	141 176
2. Expanded programme of immunization (number of full primary series)						
Triple (DPT) vaccine	5 343	7 161	17 107	11 570	25 754	66 935
Polio vaccine	5 406	6 795	17 968	11 369	25 580	67 118
BCG vaccine	5 324	6 399	20 508	11 977	25 268	69 476
Measles vaccine	5 454	6 796	18 039	11 225	23 433	64 947
3. School health						
Number of school entrants examined	3 888	5 935	10 419	6 939	17 242	44 423
Number of booster vaccinations	20 248	27 235	38 045	20 048	55 444	161 020

(Footnotes on following page)

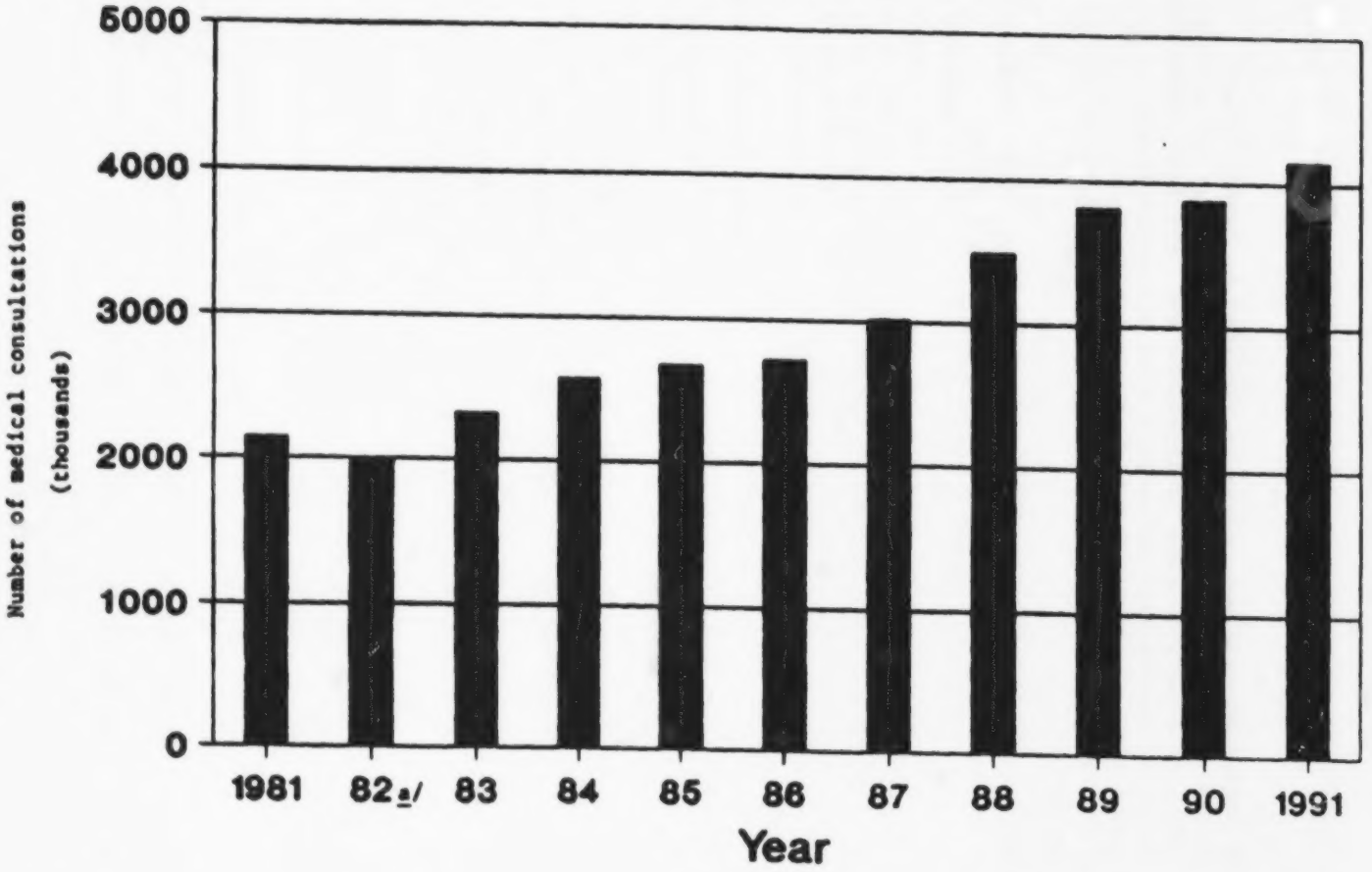
(Footnotes to table 8)

a/ Includes visits for medical consultations, injections, dressings and eye treatment.

b/ Data presented relate to services provided by UNRWA through contractual agreements. In-patient care provided to refugees in government hospitals or UNRWA maternity clinics is therefore not included. Effective 1991 Jordan cancelled contractual agreements with non-governmental organization hospitals and adopted a scheme for reimbursement of hospital expenses incurred by refugees on treatment at general or non-governmental organization hospitals.

c/ Health monitoring is monthly for those under one year, bimonthly for age group 1 to 2 years and trimonthly for age group 2 to 3 years.

Table 9. Trends in utilization of out-patient clinics



a/ Data were incomplete owing to Israeli invasion of June 1982.

Table 10. Incidence trends of selected communicable diseases

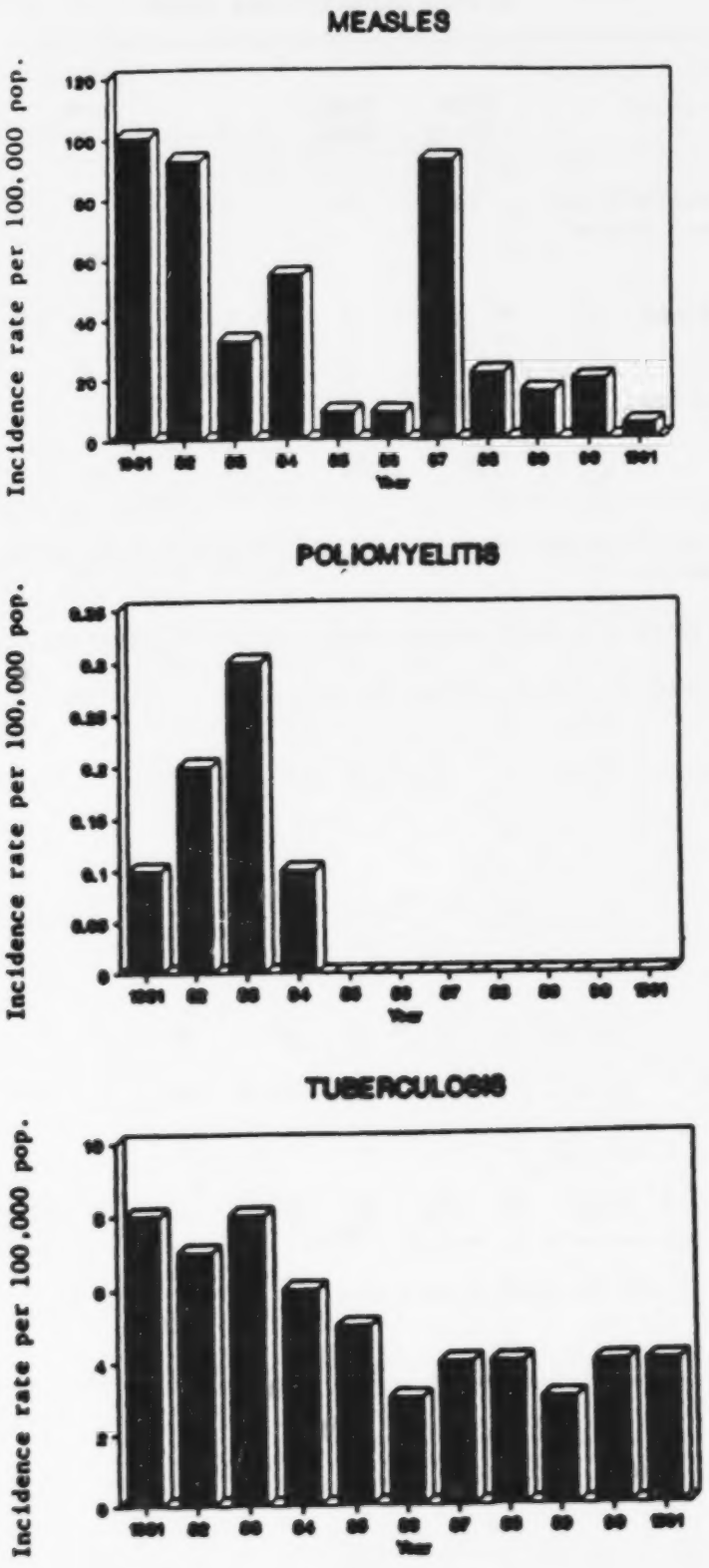


Table 11. Staff members arrested and detained

(1 July 1991-30 June 1992)

	Gaza Strip	West Bank	Jordan	Syrian Arab Republic	Lebanon	Total
Arrested or detained and released without charge or trial	30	11	7	-	3 a/	51
Charged, tried and sentenced	4	1	-	-	-	5
Still in detention	8 b/	1	-	-	1 c/	10
Total	42	13	7	-	4	66

a/ One staff member arrested by the Lebanese authorities and two held by unknown elements.

b/ Including one staff member under order of deportation.

c/ Detained by Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Table 12. Casualties in the occupied territory

(1 July 1991-30 June 1992) a/, b/

Camp/area	Shot	Beaten	Rubber bullet wounds	Tear gas	Other	Total: All	Total: Residents/ status unknown	Total: Registered refugees
A. Gaza Strip								
1. Injuries								
Gaza	35	1 116	0	10	0	1 161	777	384
Sheikh Radwan	208	204	2	8	0	422	1	421
Beit Hanoun	7	33	0	0	0	40	7	33
Jabalia	170	374	0	9	7	560	23	537
Beach Camp	248	325	3	9	0	585	0	585
Nuseirat	172	161	0	86	11	430	7	423
Bureij	112	97	0	15	8	232	9	223
Deir el-Balah	37	66	4	45	4	156	34	122
Maghazi	26	33	1	14	0	74	3	71
Khan Younis	105	104	8	10	2	229	46	183
Rafah	188	115	4	2	7	316	16	300
Total injuries	1 308	2 628	22	208	39	4 205	923	3 282
2. Fatalities	34	0	0	1	0	35	4	31
Total casualties	1 342	2 628	22	209	39	4 240	927	3 313
B. West Bank								
1. Injuries								
Area unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jericho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jerusalem	14	24	8	5	0	51	22	29
Hebron	42	26	3	10	2	83	43	40
Nablus	337	478	67	82	57	1 021	829	192
Total injuries	393	528	78	97	59	1 155	894	261
2. Fatalities	81	1	0	0	4	86	82	4
Total casualties	474	529	78	97	63	1 241	976	265

a/ The figures are those reported to or made known to UNRWA and should not be treated as exhaustive.

b/ The figures given for fatalities do not include killings of alleged collaborators.

Table 13. Contributions in cash and in kind by Governments and by the European Economic Community

(United States dollars)

(1 January 1990-31 December 1991)

Contributor	Total contributions 1990	1991		
		Regular budget and projects a/	Emergencies b/	Total c/
Argentina	-	25 538	-	25 538
Australia	2 181 460	1 954 250	394 800	2 349 050
Austria	441 470	1 500 000	-	1 500 000
Bahrain	15 000	15 000	-	15 000
Barbados	-	1 000	-	1 000
Belgium	-	3 094 091	1 144 594	4 238 685
Brazil	-	10 000	-	10 000
Brunei Darussalam	10 000	10 000	-	10 000
Canada	8 962 766	10 039 599	2 736 709	12 776 308
Chile	5 000	-	-	-
China	530 100	60 000	-	60 000
Columbia	2 077	1 828	-	1 828
Cyprus	2 571	-	-	-
Denmark	5 556 534	2 329 301	511 989	2 841 290
Egypt	7 380	-	-	-
Finland	4 423 048	4 979 253	806 125	5 785 378
France	1 890 037	2 050 205	928 525	2 978 730
Germany (Federal Republic of) d/	11 512 998	10 309 373	1 979 179	12 288 552
Greece	84 927	80 000	-	80 000
Holy See	20 000	20 000	-	20 000
Iceland	-	9 500	-	9 500
India	-	22 820	-	22 820
Indonesia	16 000	8 000	44 505	52 505
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	30 000	-	-	-
Ireland	117 038	142 896	-	142 896
Israel	68 900	112 141	-	112 141
Italy	12 124 926	10 086 758	9 889 047	19 975 805
Japan	20 063 279	17 477 144	9 819 611	27 296 755

Table 13 (continued)

Contributor	Total contributions 1990	1991 Regular budget and projects a/	1991 Emergencies b/	1991 Total c/
Jordan	289 531	98 429	-	98 429
Kuwait	1 100 000	1 500 000	15 209	1 515 209
Lebanon	253	331	-	331
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	-	99 750	99 750
Luxembourg	85 227	38 991	-	38 991
Malaysia	10 000	10 000	-	10 000
Maldives	1 000	1 000	-	1 000
Malta	1 342	1 305	-	1 305
Mauritius	-	1 110	-	1 110
Mexico	3 000	2 999	-	2 999
Monaco	4 021	5 556	-	5 556
Morocco	2 475 124	26 117	1 150 744	1 176 861
Myanmar	1 000	-	-	-
Netherlands	5 598 581	6 251 187	1 339 598	7 590 785
New Zealand	122 380	117 060	-	117 060
Nigeria	-	24 223	-	24 223
Norway	10 045 745	10 540 165	504 816	11 044 981
Oman	4 000	4 000	-	4 000
Pakistan	158 920	14 591	-	14 591
Panama	-	500	-	500
Philippines	2 165	404	-	404
Portugal	-	50 000	-	50 000
Qatar	100 000	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	10 000	10 000	-	10 000
Saudi Arabia	-	1 200 000	-	1 200 000
Senegal	-	4 078	-	4 078
Singapore	3 000	3 000	-	3 000
Spain	2 362 373	2 051 117	217 193	2 268 310
Sweden	21 552 825	21 627 172	4 568 306	26 195 478
Switzerland	9 152 583	4 283 604	1 286 840	5 570 444
Syrian Arab Republic	56 536	71 489	-	71 489

Table 13 (continued)

Contributor	Total contributions 1990	1991 Regular budget and projects a/	1991 Emergencies b/	1991 Total c/
Thailand	14 204	14 005	-	14 005
Trinidad and Tobago	4 214	-	-	-
Tunisia	-	26 230	-	26 230
Turkey	35 000	-	43 460	43 460
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	9 274 135	10 672 888	-	10 672 888
United States of America	57 000 000	62 845 620	12 754 380	75 600 000
Uruguay	1 000	-	-	-
Venezuela	7 827	12 136	-	12 136
Subtotal	187 541 497	185 848 004	50 235 380	236 083 384
European Community	58 426 946	58 976 047	15 340 746	74 316 793
Grand total	245 968 443	244 824 051	65 576 126	310 400 177

a/ Actual receipts for regular budget and projects.

b/ Actual receipts for the emergency operations in Lebanon and the occupied territory and for the Persian Gulf crisis.

c/ Actual receipts, all funds.

d/ Through accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German States have united to form one sovereign State. As from the date of unification, the Federal Republic of Germany acts in the United Nations under the designation of "Germany".

Table 14. Expenditure in 1991 and budget for 1992-1993

(Millions of United States dollars)

	Actual expenditure	General Assembly budget	
	1991	1992	1993
Regular programme			
Education	126.2	136.3	147.2
Health	45.8	50.2	52.6
Relief and social services	26.3	30.5	32.0
Operational services	24.3	19.7	23.4
Common services a/	31.4	38.1	42.0
Excess valuation(s)	1.9	____	____
Total regular programme	255.9	274.8	297.2
Extraordinary measures for Lebanon and the occupied territory	42.0	19.8	19.8
Expanded programme of assistance b/	4.8	31.2	0.0
Gaza Hospital c/	0.6	1.9	0.0
Extraordinary costs associated with the Gulf crisis d/	4.8	0.0	0.0
Grand total	308.1	327.7	317.0

a/ The common services part of the budget was extensively dealt with in the biennial budget for 1992-1993 approved by the General Assembly in 1991 (See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13, addendum (A/46/13/Add.1)).

b/ The expanded programme of assistance (EPA) is composed of one-time projects for which any free balances are reallotted each year. There is, therefore, not yet a budget for EPA for 1993.

c/ The Gaza Hospital is only at the beginning of its implementation. There is, therefore, not yet a budget established for 1993.

d/ This fund was closed by the end of 1991.

Table 15. UNRWA in figures a/, b/

	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic	Jordan	West Bank	Gaza	HQ	Total/ Average
Country area (sq km)	10 452	185 180	91 860	5 500	360		293 352
Country population	3 200 000	12 600 000	3 700 000	1 200 000	775 000		21 475 000
Registered refugees (RR)	319 427	299 207	1 010 719	459 147	560 207		2 648 707
RR average annual growth (%)	3.0	3.1	3.7	4.0	4.8		3.8
RR as % of country population	10.0	2.4	27.3	38.3	72.3		12.3
RR as % of total RR	12.1	11.3	38.2	17.3	21.1		100.0
Existing camps	12	10	10	19	8		59
RR in camps (RRCs)	160 883	87 807	233 659	120 786	308 309		911 444
RRCs as % of RR	50.4	29.3	23.1	26.3	55.0		34.4
Schools	77	111	197	98	153		636
Pupils (1991/92 enrolment)	34 441	58 789	140 029	41 090	100 057		374 406
Female pupils (%)	49.5	48.3	49.1	54.9	48.0		49.4
Training centres	1	1	2	3	1		8
Training places	608	776	1 168	1 072	728		4 352
Teacher training places	0	0	300	550	0		850
In-service teacher training	166	94	227	150	220		857
University scholarships (current)	50	140	164	136	171		661
Health centres/units	25	22	20	34	16		117
Dental clinics	11	8	16	14	8		57
Laboratories	8	11	13	13	7		52
Annual patient visits	792 453	865 843	1 445 692	963 460	2 044 473		6 111 921
Indoor water supply in camps (%)	88	100	100	92	100		97
Sewered shelters in camps (%)	55	82	80	29	20		56
Special hardship cases (SHCs)	37 326	18 268	27 961	29 441	55 536		168 532
SHCs as % of RR	11.7	6.1	2.8	6.4	9.9		6.4
Women's programme centres	9	11	18	11	14		63
Community rehabilitation centres	1	2	5	4	2		14
Self-support projects	175	72	162	68	46		523
Income-generation loans	0	0	10	14	30		54
Area staff (posts)	2 462	2 678	5 665	3 086	4 764	314	18 969
International staff (posts)	9	7	8	33	29	98	184

Table 15 (continued)

	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic	Jordan	West Bank	Gaza	HQ	Total/ Average
Regular budget (General fund) 1992 c/							
Education	12 054	20 555	37 296	20 650	34 952	10 768	136 275
Health	7 556	6 494	9 085	11 713	12 115	3 231	50 194
Relief and social services	6 364	3 203	5 639	5 104	8 522	1 711	30 543
Common services	2 345	2 179	2 607	3 390	2 711	24 891	38 123
Operational services	1 654	3 039	2 166	4 238	2 693	5 895	19 685
Total general fund 1992 c/	29 973	35 470	56 793	45 095	60 993	46 496	274 820
EMLOT 1992 budget c/	2 197	61	0	7 788	8 891	857	19 794
Unemployment % (estimates)	38	10	25	30-40	30-40		29
Illiteracy %: 15 years + (est.) d/	M12 F27	M22 F49	M11 F30	M11 F30	M10 F27		M12 F31
Infant mortality/1,000 (est.)	40	40	40	40	40		40

a/ All figures as at June 1992.

b/ All references to installations are to those operated by UNRWA.

c/ Thousands of dollars.

d/ M = male; F = female.

ANNEX II

Pertinent records of the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies a/

1. General Assembly resolutions

Resolution number	Date of adoption	Resolution number	Date of adoption
194 (III)	11 December 1948	2728 (XXV)	15 December 1970
212 (III)	19 November 1948	2791 (XXVI)	6 December 1971
302 (IV)	8 December 1949	2792 A to E (XXVI)	6 December 1971
393 (V)	2 December 1950	2963 A to E (XXVII)	13 December 1972
513 (VI)	26 January 1952	2964 (XXVII)	13 December 1972
614 (VII)	6 November 1952	3089 A to E (XXVIII)	7 December 1973
720 (VIII)	27 November 1953	3090 (XXVIII)	7 December 1973
818 (IX)	4 December 1954	3330 (XXIX)	17 December 1974
916 (X)	3 December 1955	3331 (XXIX)	17 December 1974
1018 (XI)	28 February 1957	3410 (XXX)	8 December 1975
1191 (XII)	12 December 1957	31/15 A to E	23 November 1976
1315 (XIII)	12 December 1958	32/90 A to F	13 December 1977
1456 (XIV)	9 December 1959	33/112 A to F	18 December 1978
1604 (XV)	21 April 1961	34/52 A to F	23 November 1979
1725 (XVI)	20 December 1961	35/13 A to F	3 November 1980
1856 (XVII)	20 December 1962	36/146 A to H	16 December 1981
1912 (XVIII)	3 December 1963	37/120 A to K	16 December 1982
2002 (XIX)	10 February 1965	38/83 A to K	15 December 1983
2052 (XX)	15 December 1965	39/99 A to K	14 December 1984
2154 (XXI)	17 November 1966	40/165 A to K	16 December 1985
2252 (ES-V)	4 July 1967	41/69 A to K	3 December 1986
2341 (XXII)	19 December 1967	42/69 A to K	2 December 1987
2452 (XXIII)	19 December 1968	43/57 A to J	6 December 1988
2535 (XXIV)	10 December 1969	44/47 A to K	8 December 1989
2656 (XXV)	7 December 1970	45/73 A to K	11 December 1990
2672 (XXV)	8 December 1970	46/46 A to K	9 December 1991

2. General Assembly decision

Decision number	Date of adoption
36/462	16 March 1982

3. Reports of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA

1990: Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/45/13 and Add.1)

1991: Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/46/13 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

4. Audited financial statements

1990: Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 5C (A/45/5/Add.3)

1991: Not yet issued

5. Reports of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine

1990: A/45/382

1991: A/46/373

6. Reports of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA

1990: A/45/645

1991: A/46/622

7. Reports of the Secretary-General

1990: Reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 44/47 D to K of 8 December 1989:

A/45/463 (Offers by Members States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees)

A/45/464 (Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967)

A/45/465 (Resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees)

A/45/466 (Return of population and refugees displaced since 1967)

A/45/429 (Revenues derived from Palestine refugee properties)

A/45/641 (Protection of Palestine refugees)

A/45/530 (University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine Refugees)

A/45/646 (Protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the occupied Palestinian territory)

Report submitted to the Security Council by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 672 (1990) (Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fifth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1990, document S/21919 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3)

1991: Reports of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 45/73 D to K of 11 December 1990:

A/46/535 (Offers by Members States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees)

A/46/536 (Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967)

A/46/537 (Resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees)

A/46/538 (Return of population and refugees displaced since 1967)

A/46/399 (Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties)

A/46/539 (Protection of Palestine refugees)

A/46/540 (University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees)

A/46/541 (Protection of Palestinian students and educational institutions and safeguarding of the security of the facilities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the occupied Palestinian territory)

Report submitted to the Security Council by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 681 (1990) (Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991, document S/22472)

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a/ A list of pertinent reports and other documents of the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies concerning UNRWA (notably those prior to 1987) can be found in the publication entitled UNRWA at the United Nations 1948-1986, which is available from the UNRWA Public Information Office.

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